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Water, power for new Hebron settlers

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HEBRON. — By yesterday evening the three Jewish families who settled in an empty lot in this Arab town on Wednesday were provided with running water, electricity and gas. IDF reservists were on hand to guard the families round the clock.

Barbed wire was spread among the trees along the road marking the boundary where neighbouring Arab children may play. The small area where the families settled in accordance with Defence Ministry plans is surrounded by Arab buildings.

Only three families have moved here so far — although four caravans were brought from the nearby Avra-

ham Avinu area near the Machpela cave. A settler who spoke on condition he not be named said it was not yet clear whether a fourth family would join the group now. "We may decide to use the fourth caravan as a synagogue," he said.

But sources in nearby Kiryat Arba said they already had plans to settle 36 families here.

Residents said plans to settle here had been made years ago. The matter had not come before the Ministerial Settlement Committee but a senior source in Hebron said there was no need because they were operating in the framework of the decision.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

None hurt in grenade attack on IDF

JERUSALEM POST STAFF
METULLA. — Two hand grenades were thrown Wednesday night at an IDF convoy north of the village of Sarafand, near Sidon on the Coastal Road.

No one was hurt and the soldiers returned fire.

Reuters, reporting from Beirut, said yesterday that IDF troops

arrested eight people in the village of Ghadiyeh, five kilometres southwest of Sidon.

The Lebanese cabinet is to discuss the South at a special meeting next Tuesday. Cabinet sources said it would focus on reports that Israel has fenced off two areas of Lebanese land near its border, one of which contains the source of the Litani River.

'Spirit of unity' in Knesset steering unit

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

Preparations for the opening session of the new Knesset next Monday afternoon will be made by a steering committee formed yesterday morning at a meeting of representatives of all the parties which entered the Knesset in the July 23 elections. (Photograph — page 2)

The steering committee is chaired by the former whip of the Alignment faction, Moshe Shalom, while a former Likud whip, Transport Minister Haim Coru, will be his deputy.

At a friendly and business-like meeting lasting only half an hour — Shalom said it had taken place in "a spirit of national unity" — a pro-

visional Knesset Finance Committee was decided on, to be chaired by a Likud MK, and a provisional Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee to be chaired by an Alignment MK.

A subcommittee was also set up to decide where factions would sit in the plenum chamber and where their offices would be located in the various rooms of the Knesset building.

A demonstration "decriing racism and... the moral degeneration shown by the election of (Meir) Kahane to the Knesset" will be held in front of the Knesset building next Monday at 2:30, when the new MKs are to affirm their loyalty, the Committee against Racism announced yesterday.



Three U.S. sprinters carry the flag on a victory lap after sweeping the first three places in the Olympic 200 metres final in Los Angeles on Wednesday. From left to right: Kirk Baptiste (silver medal), Thomas Jefferson (bronze) and Carl Lewis (gold). (Olympic reports — p.4) (UPI telephoto)

French senate rejects referendum idea

PARIS (AP). — The opposition-controlled senate early yesterday overwhelmingly rejected Socialist President Francois Mitterrand's proposal to amend the constitution and allow popular referendums on matters of "public freedom".

Justice Minister Robert Badinter had argued before the senate that such referendums would give the public more control over issues of civil liberties. But opponents called the proposal "dangerous" and a "political maneuver".

After two days of debate, the senate voted 207-106 not to examine the text of such a bill. Despite the vote, the Socialist-controlled national assembly will continue with its

work, taking up the proposal August 22.

The proposal called for a national referendum on the question of holding referendums when issues concerning personal and public freedoms are at stake. The government recently made clear that a controversial bill to reform private schools could be put before the people if the bill were passed.

The rejection was the first political setback to the president's new government. Mitterrand, sinking in opinion polls and confronted with political, economic and social crises, offered the proposal shortly before appointing Laurent Fabius and overhauling the cabinet.



A likeness of the late prime minister Levi Eshkol appears on new light-blue 5,000-sheqalim note issued yesterday by the Bank of Israel. (See story page 2) (Zev Radovan)

Minesweeping effort in Suez Gulf next week

CAIRO (AP). — An international operation to sweep the Red Sea and Suez Gulf clean of mines that plagued shipping over the past month shaped up yesterday as Egypt took military measures to protect its sea-borne pilgrims to the Moslem holy places in Saudi Arabia.

Reuters reported yesterday, quoting official sources in Bonn, that a Soviet minesweeper will join the mine-clearing efforts in the Suez Canal.

U.S. and British mine counter-measure helicopters and vessels will join Egyptian Navy minesweepers next week in the search and destruction of mines that have damaged at least 14 ships in the sea route between the Indian Ocean and the Suez Canal.

Egypt asked the U.S. and Britain for their help, and France announced yesterday it also was con-

sidering a similar Cairo request.

As a first step, the French Foreign Ministry said France will reinforce its military presence in Djibouti, which overlooks the Bab al-Mandeb Straits, the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

The joint minesweeping operation is reminiscent of a similar effort in 1975 when the U.S., Britain and France participated in clearing the Suez Canal of mines dropped during the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

At the same time, Egypt is extending military protection to passenger ships carrying its Moslem citizens to the Saudi port of Jeddah for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca early next month.

About 110,000 Egyptians will join hundreds of thousands of Moslems from other countries in the pilgrimage which culminates in the four-day sacrificial Bairam feast.

Agreement with Hussein on confederation—Arafat

TUNIS (Reuters). — PLO leader Yasser Arafat yesterday said that he had reached agreement in principle with Jordan's King Hussein about setting up a confederation between Jordan and a future Palestinian state.

Arafat told a Reuters reporter: "We both accepted the decision of the Palestine National Council regarding the establishment of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation."

The council endorsed the principle of the confederation at its meeting in Algiers last February.

Arafat said that the exact formulation of the prospective confederation must still be hammered out. But he said it would be based on "equal relations between the two peoples."

Regarding the split in the PLO, Arafat said that 1984 was the year of "re-constitution. Next year will be the year of reaping."

During the past few months, Arafat and his aides have held a number of talks with Jordanian leaders in Amman. But they have not given much publicity to the subject of the link between Jordan and a future Palestinian state.

Beirut bomb kills three

BEIRUT. — A bomb exploded in a garbage pile at a crowded vegetable market in mostly Moslem West Beirut yesterday and police said three persons were killed and 20 wounded.

Militiamen of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or "Party of God," cordoned off the blast scene in the low-income Basta neighbourhood and prevented the army, police and newsmen from getting into the area.

Police said initially that four people were killed in the blast. The

death toll was changed because the body of one victim was counted twice because of a mixup at hospitals, police said.

Meanwhile, dozens of angry relatives of people kidnapped by Christian and Moslem militias converged on Prime Minister Rashid Karameh's office to protest at lack of progress towards a hostage release.

The protest ended when Karameh told the crowd the government was doing its best to solve the problem. (AP, Reuters)

\$2m. agricultural market inaugurated in Bethlehem

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BETHLEHEM. — Arab money sent through Jordan, American aid channelled through the Save the Children-Community Development Foundations and shekels provided by the military government have

paid for a large steel, stone and concrete market which Mayor Elias Freij expects will serve some 500,000 people a year — as well as bargain-seeking Israelis. The total cost of the market, the largest privately funded aid project in the administered territories, is \$2 million, with the CDF providing the lion's share. The market, which Freij inaugurated yesterday, will be open to the public next month, when an estimated 30 vendors will be assigned shops here. It is the largest market of its kind in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Freij told reporters.

It is expected to replace the small cluster of shops in Bethlehem's old sector which had been difficult to reach and overcrowded. The new market is on Bethlehem's southern

outskirts with ample parking space for 300 cars so it can be easily reached by the many residents who have cars. The municipality is planning to open a bus line from the centre of town, the mayor said.

Much of the money for this project appears to have come from Arab countries. Freij reported receiving some \$664,000 through Jordan. He would not say which countries contributed the money, but the military governor, Sgan-Aluf Haim Aviv, said the money came from countries such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — but not the PLO.

But the municipality ran short of funds to complete the project so the U.S. Agency for International Development contributed some \$900,000 which was funnelled through the Save the Children-Community Development Foundation of Westport, Connecticut. Some of that money will go to providing refrigerators for meat and a Red Cross station. Israel, the mayor said, contributed a little less than \$100,000.

Labour looks to Hammer No progress made in coalition talks

By DAVID LANDAU
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Labour's coalition-building efforts appear to be marking time as Shimon Peres' first week as premier-designate draws to a close.

There has been no real progress in cobbling together a narrow-based government with the religious parties, and the parallel-track talks with the Likud on a unity government are still in the stage of speech-making by the participants.

Labour activists hoped that the return to Israel of the two National Religious Party Young Guard leaders, Ze'evulun Hammer and Yehuda Ben-Meir, might produce some movement in the deadlock.

Yesterday, top Labour and Likud teams met for a third session at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, each administering to the other a series of lectures on defence and foreign policy issues.

People present at the three-hour meeting said that nothing unexpected had been said by either side. Both put forward their well-known positions on settlements, negotiations with Jordan, Camp David, the embolism in Lebanon.

For Likud, Minister Without Portfolio Ariel Sharon took a forceful line on the need, in the Likud's view, to continue settlement-building throughout Judea and Samaria.

For Labour, Yitzhak Navon insisted that Jordan must be invited to negotiate without preconditions — that is, not necessarily on the basis of Camp David.

The two sides have not even begun to seek bridging formulae, according to Deputy Premier David Levy. Nor, he said, had they broached the issue of who is to be prime minister of the unity government which they all continue ardently to support.

They did agree, however, to meet again on Sunday, when, according to both Levy and Navon, the speech-making will end and more practical gap-spanning talks will begin.

But neither side seems to expect any speedy progress or spectacular breakthrough — or indeed speedy or spectacular collapse. Certainly neither wants to stand accused of foiling the unity attempt.

Some observers felt yesterday that the regular meetings, coming on the heels of campaign hostility, might regenerate of themselves a dynamic rapprochement sufficient to support

the creation of a short-term (18 months) unity government which could in effect be a joint economic crisis management team — with the political controversies put in abeyance for the interim.

But the prospect of this evolving is intimately linked to the two parties' respective chances of forming narrow-based governments, and here premier-designate Peres has little to show, so far, for his patient toil.

A meeting yesterday between Labour and Shas produced only a public reiteration by Shas' top MK, Yitzhak Peretz, of his party's support for Yitzhak Shamir as premier of a unity government. Labour's election platform on state-and-religion "still stands between us," Peretz said after the two-hour meeting with Peres and other Labour leaders.

The Labour group made it clear to Shas, as they have made clear to other religious parties, that the platform pledges are entirely irrelevant given the post-election political arithmetic. Labour has committed itself to maintain the present status quo in religious matters. Peres reportedly asked Peretz to convey this (Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Hammer reaffirms NRP demand for unity

It may be necessary for the big parties to realize that neither can form a narrow government before they begin to discuss a unity government seriously, Education Minister Ze'evulun Hammer told reporters last night at Ben-Gurion Airport on his return from a vacation in Switzerland.

"That could be the contribution of the small parties now — to prevent formation of a narrow government," Hammer said.

He said only a unity government would be capable of solving the country's pressing problems.

The education minister emphasized that his position was identical to that of the National Religious Party as a whole, and that he and Interior Minister Yosef Burg were in

complete agreement, saying that he had kept in constant touch with Burg while abroad.

The NRP does not rule out either of the large parties, Hammer said, adding that the question of the premiership could be solved by rotation.

Hammer said it was too early to decide whether new elections would be preferable to a narrow-based government. But, he stated, no one is keen on the prospect of elections, particularly when recent experience shows that the public is evenly divided between the two major blocs.

On the NRP's internal situation after the election, Hammer said the party needed a long-term plan, which would include educational

work, organizational changes and determining its political stance, to regain the confidence of the religious Zionist public.

"The NRP can press for a national unity government today because that is the correct thing from the point of view of policy and will also be best for the party in the long term," Hammer told reporters.

In answer to a question, the education minister said he was not certain that administrative orders were the best solution to appearances by Rabbi Meir Kahane in the schools. The schools are open to varied political opinions, he stated, and the decision on whom to allow to speak must be made by principals and educators. (Itim)



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LONDON	16	17	25	77	Clear
MONTREAL	18	19	27	81	Clear
NEW YORK	22	23	31	88	Clear
PARIS	18	19	27	81	Clear
SAO PAULO	18	19	27	81	Clear
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THE WEATHER

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Min-Max
Jerusalem	33	17-27	28
Golan	33	17-30	30
Nahariya	33	18-29	29
Safed	33	18-29	29
Haifa Port	33	24-30	30
Tiberias	36	21-30	30
Nazareth	36	20-30	31
Alula	32	20-33	33
Shomron	36	19-30	30
Tel Aviv	33	21-30	30
B-G Airport	33	21-31	31
Jericho	33	21-38	38
Gaza	70	22-36	36
Beersheba	70	22-36	36
Eilat	10	24-30	30

Irgun dead remembered

Hundreds of Irgun Zvai Leumi veterans, led by Transport Minister Haim Corfu and Communications Minister Mordechai Zupori, yesterday commemorated the organization's dead in the struggle for Jewish independence and dedicated four graves on the Mount of Olives.

The tombstones were inscribed with the names of four Irgun dead whose burial places are unknown: Ya'acov Raz, Yosef Duckler, Aharon Mazayoff and Menahem Levy. (Itim)

Goldenberg's massacre marked in France

PARIS (JTA). - France yesterday marked the second anniversary of the Rue des Rosiers massacre in which six people were killed and 22 injured by an Arab hit squad at Goldenberg's Jewish deli in the old Paris Jewish "pletzel."

The minister of the interior and the deputy minister of education represented President Francois Mitterrand and Premier Laurent Fabius at a memorial gathering. The head of the Paris mosque Ismail Ahmed Benzourou stood in the crowd next to Israeli Ambassador Ovadia Sofer and representatives of the Catholic Church and of various French organizations.

HEBRON

(Continued from Page One)

sion to expand Jewish settlement in the town.

The settlers got the green light on Monday, several days after the pages of some Hebrew prayerbooks were found torn and scattered in the town.

One of the settlers, Baruch Marzel, said yesterday they had gathered secretly at the Avraham Avinu synagogue on Wednesday evening - to avoid any last-minute appeal to the Supreme Court. Then four caravans were brought here, followed by the settlers' beds, chairs, food and flower pots.

Yesterday the authorities brought more fences. Four big water barrels were installed and a generator provided electricity.

The settlers hoisted Israeli flags - one on a caravan and another in the street atop a utility pole.

Hebron was quiet yesterday and no incidents were reported. But deposed mayor Mustafa Natsha said residents were concerned.

Disturbances may arise following today's Muslim prayer services, but one of the Jewish residents said they were sure the army would do a good job protecting them. "They're afraid to riot," one said of his new neighbors.

HOME AND WORLD NEWS

West German daily reports:

1,000 East Germans helping out in Syria

BONN (JTA). - Nearly 1,000 East German experts are currently deployed in Syria in various fields, ranging from training and organizing police to promoting agricultural production - according to a report from Damascus published yesterday in the West German daily *Die Welt*.

The report said that the Syrian town of Rakka in the eastern part of the country is full of painted slogans of the "Freie Deutsche Jugend," the Communist youth organization of East Germany. The slogans, in German and in Arabic, praise the cooperation between the East German SED ruling party and the Syrian Ba'ath ruling party, as well as their respective youth organizations.

Die Welt said that the cooperation with Syria is coordinated by Guenther Kleiber, a top aide of East Germany's leader Erich Honecker. Kleiber visits Syria frequently and largely concentrates in promoting youth exchanges between the two countries.

As for the police, the East Germans reportedly teach the Syrians both organization and investigation techniques. They also supply the Syrian regime with police equipment.

Geographically, the East German activities are largely concentrated in the Northern and Eastern parts of Syria, which are normally less exposed to visitors from abroad. That seems to suggest that the East Germans want to keep a low profile at least in some areas, such as the military and police cooperation.

Die Welt also said that some 6,000 military and some 2,000 civil Soviet experts are currently in Syria. The Russians man missile batteries and are advising the Syrian army on various levels of command.

In the civilian area, the Russians concentrate on modernizing the transportation system and on exploring possibilities for finding oil. *Die Welt* said.

Iranian oil platform said hit by Iraqi warplanes

BAHRAIN (Reuters). - Iran said one of its oil platforms in the centre of the Gulf was hit yesterday in an Iraqi air attack as Baghdad promised to continue its blockade of Teheran's Kharg Island oil export terminal.

A military spokesman in Baghdad said Iraqi planes had successfully hit a "very large naval target" - Iraq's usual terminology for a tanker - in an early morning raid near Kharg Island in the northern Gulf.

Iran later said there were no reports of ships being hit in the area but one of its platforms in an offshore oil field some 90 kilometres southwest of Kharg had been slightly damaged in an Iraqi attack.

It said a fire on the Foruzan subsidiary platform had been quickly extinguished and only minor damage was caused.

In Baghdad, the government newspaper *al-Jumhuriya* said yesterday the blockade of Kharg was not a temporary tactic, but would continue until the end of the war - now approaching its fifth year.

The blockade "will continue as long as the war continues. It will escalate as the war escalates," the newspaper warned.

"Iraq and only Iraq will decide where, when and how to strike," it added.

The attack on the oil platform followed by two days an Iraqi air-borne missile strike which caused minor damage to the Liberian supertanker *Friendship*, hit south of Kharg Island after loading Iranian oil there. The vessel now is reported heading under its own steam for Rotterdam.

The attack on Tuesday, the 20th independently confirmed strike against merchant ships in the Gulf since mid-April, broke a month-long lull in the shipping war.



MKs Moshe Shalev of the Alignment (left) and Haim Corfu of the Likud (right) meet yesterday to discuss formalities of the opening session of the new Knesset next Monday. (Isaac Harari)

Ramle to hold dance 'celebration'

By DORA SOWDEN
Post Dance Critic

Thirty-three young choreographers, some already known and all ready to prove themselves, will combine in a three-day "celebration" entitled "Aspects of Dance" in Ramle on August 20-22.

The object is to bring audiences to Ramle and to draw attention to the choreographers and their need for support.

The idea was prompted by the successful festival of the arts held in Acre, and it is being sponsored by the Ministry of Education's Public Council for the Arts, Omaniut L'Am, the Israel Discount Bank, and the Ramle municipality.

At a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday, presided over by Ainer Shalev, chairman of the Public Council, Elidia Geyra of Omaniut L'Am and Gideon Paz, organizer of the Ramle "celebration", hope was expressed that Ramle would become a centre for the performing arts.

All day performances will take place on August 21 and 22 in the new theatre and in the old amphitheatre. Three composers and a rock group will also participate. Dancers will come from all over the country to perform the choreographers' works. A three-day workshop given by the Tamar Dance Theatre, the resident company in Ramle, will precede the celebration on August 14-16.

1,440 new settlers registered last month

Jerusalem Post Staff

A total of 1,440 new olim and potential olim registered at the Absorption Ministry last month, the ministry announced Wednesday. This is a 37.7 per cent increase over June's 896 olim, but 14 per cent less than the 1,672 who came in July 1983.

Most of the new olim (448) came from North America, 427 of them from the U.S. There were 264 olim from Eastern Europe (Romania, 212 and the Soviet Union, 45); 387 from Western Europe (France, 226); 103 from Africa; 53 from Asia; 161 from Latin America (Argentina, 64). There were 24 olim from Australia and New Zealand.

The ministry also announced that 196 returning residents had registered last month, up 47 per cent from the 101 who returned in June.

Arts high school

A high school of the arts will open in Jerusalem at the start of the 1985 school year next month. The main subjects taught will be the visual arts, theatre and communications, an Education Ministry press release said.

The school will be in the Musrara neighbourhood.

The school is now registering prospective pupils.

WINNERS. - Mifal Hapayis lottery ticket No. 180336 won IS19 million for its purchaser yesterday. No. 308475 won IS1m., and numbers 204299 and 1154622 won IS500,000 each. All tickets ending with the number 8 won IS225.



Part of a bar and bat-mitzva group from the U.S. and Canada, brought here by the Israel Travel Advisory Service, stands atop Masada yesterday after receiving gifts of Tora scrolls. (Brian Hender)

New IS5,000 note chases inflation

Jerusalem Post Staff

The Bank of Israel yesterday put into circulation a new 5,000-shekel note. Light blue in colour and having the same dimensions as the IS1,000 note, the new note was issued as part of the bank's policy of printing notes in higher denominations to try to keep up with inflation.

The face of the new note bears a likeness of the late prime minister Levi Eshkol, while the back shows the national water carrier, completed during his premiership.

Within six months, the bank is to issue a 10,000-shekel note with the likeness of the late prime minister Golda Meir, and within a year a 50,000-shekel note featuring the late author S.Y. Agnon.

A 500-shekel coin is also due to be minted and all coins under one shekel are to be withdrawn.

'Israeli nudists caused Taba pullback'

CAIRO (AFP). - The Egyptian police were forced to pull back from the disputed Taba border strip near Eilat by the presence of Israeli nudists, the opposition weekly *al-Wafd* claimed yesterday.

The weekly said that the Egyptian police colonel responsible for the temporary border in the Taba area had to order his men to move back to prevent them from "feasting their eyes" on the sights beyond the border fence while doing guard duty.

The colonel set up a new line of barbed wire fences, the weekly said.

Al-Wafd said the move has resulted in the creation of a new disputed area between the old and new lines - and Israelis quickly took over the area and set up structures for changing clothes.

Passers-by help catch robber—twice

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. - Public-spirited passers-by yesterday caught an absconding robber after he and his mate allegedly robbed a black market money changer downtown of \$2,300.

The suspect, a 30-year-old Haifa man, asked a 40-year-old money changer for \$100 in Bank Street, where most currency business is carried out in more official venues. The changer took his client into an entrance where he gave him the \$100 note.

The man expressed dissatisfaction with the state of the note and when the changer pulled out his wad to give him another, the client threatened him with a razor blade.

The money changer jumped aside and a second man who had been lurking nearby grabbed the wad and fled.

The money changer ran after him while passers-by pursued the other man who also tried to get away. They caught and handed him over to the changer, who marched him to the nearby police station. Half-way there, the man made a dash for it, the changer shouted for help and once more passers-by went after the fleeing thief, one of them firing warning shots into the air.

The man was caught and brought to the station. A police spokesman said the police have a good description of the other man and hope to apprehend him shortly.

NO PROGRESS

(Continued from Page One)

position to Shas' Council of Sages. Peretz told newsmen the two parties "might" meet again.

Over at the Prime Minister's Office, meanwhile, Yitzhak Shamir spent two hours in private conversation with Ezer Weizman, leader of Yahad (three seats). Weizman would only say on leaving that they had discussed a unity government.

A source close to Weizman told *The Jerusalem Post* there was no sign so far of any shift in Weizman's original position favouring a unity government under Peres.

Since Yahad is pivotal, this would seem to mean that the deadlock is hardening.

But another political source, a veteran politician with ties to Weizman, predicted last night that eventually Weizman would shift to the Likud. "He may not know it himself right now," the source said. "He may spurn the idea out of hand at the moment. But in a month or so, he'll move."

"After all, what is his alternative? Does he want to run in another election now? Does he want to be held up as the man preventing the Likud from forming a government? Does he want to keep sitting out in the cold while all the other components of that prospective Likud-led government are in there now enjoying power in the form of the transition government?"

This source's prognosis hinged on the NRP's eventually plunging for Likud. The source, who is familiar with the workings of the NRP, dubbed that party's talks with Labour "merely tactical" and said that though the NRP leadership would in the main prefer to restore the alliance with Labour, the rank-and-file would force a return to the Likud's embrace.

The source spoke of strains that have already surfaced within the NRP between established leadership and the new addition to the team, Avner Sciaki.

Labour sources do not hide their disappointment with the headline positions taken by the NRP at its meeting with Labour on Wednesday in Tel Aviv - on issues of policy and on issues of power and preference.

But some in Labour still look to Hammer and Ben-Meir to bolster the pro-Labour forces in the party. Both men are known to have deep reservations over Likud's past policies - especially the Lebanon war. They feel, too, that the alliance with the Likud has cost the NRP dearly in terms of votes drifting over to the Likud, Tebiya and Morasha.

Roy Isaacowitz adds:

Senior Labour Party sources yesterday saw little chance of the political deadlock being broken in the next weeks. The coalition talks of the past two days have engendered confusion and pessimism in the party. "The situation today is more deadlocked than at any time since the elections," one party leader said last night.

Labour officials are scathing about the Likud's continuing attempts to form a government. "Respect for democratic procedure will join all the other late norms in the Likud-bait graveyard," one source said. While acknowledging that the Likud's intransigence could well prevent the Alignment from forming a government, the sources were doubtful whether Shamir would be any more successful.

Agricultural subsidies pose problem at trade talks

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Subsidies for agricultural exports are causing trouble for the delegations to the ninth round of talks between the U.S. and Israel on the establishment of a free trade zone.

Agriculture Minister Pessah Grupper yesterday stated his opposition to ending subsidies for Israeli agricultural exports, one of the American demands during the negotiations. He said that the policy of granting subsidies to agricultural exports was decided upon by the entire cabinet and should continue.

Grupper added that American agriculture is also heavily subsidized and that, indirectly, part of the support granted to it subsidizes exports.

Another problem being discussed by the delegations is the timing of customs reductions for various products.

According to some of the participants in the talks, this problem is of a more "technical" nature.

U.S. officials rap Israeli lobbying

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. - Reagan administration officials opposed to a proposed law requiring the transfer of the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem have complained that Israeli lobbying on the subject is an interference in U.S. internal affairs - even though the officials have been aided by the lobbying of Arab ambassadors in opposing the law.

Opposition to moving the embassy is based in the National Security Council, Secretary of State George Shultz's office and the State Department Middle East Desk, which have encouraged the ambassadors of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and additional Arab and Moslem states to lobby members of Congress against the law.

But administration officials criticized a meeting this week between Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenfeld and Democratic Congressman Stephen Solarz of New York, in which Rosenfeld reiterated Israel's position on the embassy.

Solarz, who opposes the proposed law, leaves this morning for a Middle East tour, during which he will visit Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Israel and will attempt to meet high officials including Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and Syria's Hafez Assad.

In his meeting with Rosenfeld, Solarz asked if Israel had any message for Arab leaders. He was told that Israel is ready for contacts without pre-conditions.

Other congressional sources have expressed the view that Solarz' position is overly influenced by the administration and the Arabs and is damaging to Israel.

'Redemption of the vineyard' revived

BET YATIR (Itim). - The practice of redeeming the fruit of the fourth year of a vineyard (*pidyon kerev*) was reinstated in a ceremony held yesterday in this settlement in the southern Hebron hills. Sephardi Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, Chief of Staff Moshe Levy and a large number of Knesset members attended the ceremony.

The ceremony was part of festivities marking the fifth year of settlement in the Yatir area, where 11 secular and religious settlements are now located.

The law of the fourth year of the vineyard - which was kept when the Temple was in existence - requires that the first fruit of that year be taken to Jerusalem and eaten there. Someone living more than a day's walk from Jerusalem could redeem the fruit by exchanging it for money which would be used to eat in Jerusalem.

The fruit was redeemed by Chief Rabbi Eliahu. A first-shearing ceremony was also held.

Israel Prize to be given for a television series

Israel Prizes will be awarded next year for an original dramatic television series and for Yiddish and Oriental literature, the Education Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Prizes will also be awarded to individuals or institutions in the fields of Hebrew language or literature, science or medical service, and a special contribution to the state and society by a project combining security, ingathering of the exiles, settlement, and Jewish and Zionist values.

Any citizen may submit one nomination for an Israel Prize. Nominations must be submitted to the ministry by next Thursday, August 16.



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Israeli ships to keep sailing Red Sea

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — "The officers of the Israeli merchant marine will continue to sail the Red Sea and every other ocean the shipping companies send our ships to."

"We will demand no danger pay, and do not want any for doing our duty to the companies and the country," Chief Engineer Erez Ivry, spokesman for the Marine Officers Union, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

"He noted that Israelis who are sent to Lebanon for reserve duty with the armed forces 'don't ask for danger pay either'."

The question of danger pay for the men on Israeli ships sailing out of Eilat to South Africa and the Far East, via the Red Sea, has not been raised at all, he added.

The Zim spokesman told *The Post*

that the company, which operates a dozen Israeli chartered freighters on the Eilat routes, has not cancelled any sailings since the mine explosions in the Red Sea started over a week ago, causing damage to at least a dozen ships of different nations.

The *Post* has learned that the Israeli maritime authorities which are closely following developments in the Red Sea, do occasionally order ships to delay their entry into the sea for several hours, both as a precaution and to issue them instructions.

Shipping experts told *The Post* that it may be safer to sail during daylight hours whenever possible, as this gives the crews a chance to look out for the mines.

The officers union "leaves the decisions on sailing schedules and procedures in the hands of the com-

pany and the maritime authorities," Ivry said.

He said that in the past his members had not been deterred from the Red Sea following actual damage to two Israeli ships, "and we won't be deterred this time either."

At the end of the Yom Kippur War, an Israeli tanker, the M.S. Siris, struck an Egyptian mine in the Gulf of Suez and sank. All her crew, as well as the captain's dog and parrot, were safely evacuated by air force helicopters.

A few years earlier another Israeli tanker, the M.S. Coral Sea, was attacked by a terrorist boat at the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

A rocket tore a hole in its hull, but fizzled out inside a hold filled with crude oil. Had it hit an empty hold, the gas fumes would probably have caused an explosion big enough to destroy the ship.

Judge bars autopsy in death of infant

HAIFA (Itim). — A magistrate's court judge here yesterday turned down a police request to allow an autopsy on the body of an infant who was found dead Wednesday night.

Joseph Benjamin Sasson Ben-Yehuda Scheinfeld, eight-and-a-half months old, was found dead with a telephone lead wrapped around his neck at his parents' home in Zichron Ya'acov.

A police representative told the court that the infant had been left alone in the house.

The Scheinfelds' lawyer said that the family was Orthodox and objected to autopsies.

In denying the request for an autopsy, the judge said that apparently there had been no foul play. The infant had apparently become caught in the lead and strangled, the judge said.

However, the judge added that the infant's parents might be liable to prosecution for negligence, since they left the child without supervision.

Eilat murder suspect: 'I didn't mean to do it'

BEERSHEBA (Itim). — The suspected murderer of 17-year-old Tiran Zion of Eilat was remanded into 15 days of custody by a magistrate's court judge here yesterday.

"I admit to committing the crime but I had no intention of committing the act," the suspect told the court.

The judge forbade publication of the suspect's name and photograph at the request of the police.

Two suspects remanded in Orly Biton killing

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Two suspects in the murder of 25-year-old Orly Biton were remanded for 15 days each by a magistrate's court judge here yesterday.

Yitzhak Aljaim of Jaffa and Rahim Rippler of Bat Yam, both 27, were remanded after a police representative told the court that they murdered Biton 2½ years ago. Her body has not yet been found.

Autopsy ordered on Beduin woman, 60

BEERSHEBA (Itim). — An autopsy is to be performed to determine what caused the death of a 60-year-old Beduin woman during a Border Police search for drugs near here Tuesday night.

A magistrate's court judge yesterday ordered the autopsy on the body of Adwa Ahmed al-Sana, who died while police were conducting the

search and arresting her son, Hamad Suleiman al-Sana.

Her son testified yesterday that his mother was ill, and during the search and arrest, which were allegedly carried out violently by police, she collapsed.

The judge ordered the autopsy despite the son's objections on religious grounds.

Group hopes to start Negev's first lookout site

By LIOA MORIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

NITZANA. — A group of five would-be Negev settlers is looking for more members, with the aim of starting the area's first *mitzpe* (lookout settlement). To get official recognition, and thus financing, from authorities such as the Jewish Agency and the Agriculture Ministry, the group must consist of at least seven families.

The *mitzpe*, located 10 kilometres south of Nitzana and 3 km. from the border with Egypt, already has six

prefabricated buildings with solar heaters, but no water, electricity or means of sewage disposal.

The five members committed to the project so far take turns sleeping at the site, tentatively named either Azuz or Be'erotaim (the names of a former settlement at the site).

Doron Akiva, who has been working towards the *mitzpe* for three years, told *The Jerusalem Post* that he understood why the settlement agencies demand proof of commitment before giving recognition to settlement projects. "If someone has an idea and approaches them, and then drifts off to another project, that's no basis for a long-term settlement. We've proved that we mean business and are steadfast and committed. All we need are a few more families."

Akiva, the only single member of the group, must marry before moving to the *mitzpe* since the settlement authorities do not recognize singles.

A Nature Reserve Authority warden, he fell in love with the oasis and surrounding area several years ago and has been trying to settle the

place properly ever since. He already has a master plan for the new *mitzpe* which envisages an amphitheatre, flood water irrigation and a shaded plaza.

The other four members of the *mitzpe* are Dror and Celia Friede and Liat and Amnon Isai. Two other families have almost decided to join and at least two more families are urgently sought, as a start. The eventual hope is to attract as many committed people as possible, to make the place a success both socially and economically.

Moshav Kadish Barnea, near the Nitzana border post on the Egyptian border, has provided the settlers with both moral support and jobs.

"Without them we would never have got this far," said Dror Friede. "Yankel Moscovitz, one of the founders of the moshav, has been our mainstay from the beginning. They had the same problems when they decided to set up their settlement at Kadish Barnea (now in the Egyptian Sinai) without waiting for official permission. They know the ropes."



Mickey Scope

Electric Corps. workers help sick boy

Every employee of the Israel Electric Corporation contributed one work day to enable Mickey Scope, the 10½-year-old son of one of the company's employees, to undergo a complicated liver cancer operation in London.

The operation was described by Mickey's mother, Esther, as a success, according to an announcement by the company spokesman.

Micky, who initially had three

malignant growths on his liver, was treated at the Royal Free Hospital for four months with a new anti-cancer drug.

At the end of the period, two of the growths had disappeared and the third, the largest growth, had been considerably reduced. The doctors removed the third growth and, according to the mother, later said that the liver was now "completely clean."

Military Police nab traffic offenders

By YITZHAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Military Police yesterday held a special 12-hour road safety campaign around the country with many traffic offenders being sent to summary trials.

The campaign, from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m., involved many MPs, including normally desk-bound soldiers.

The MPs were strict. Offenders caught before 12 noon were sent off for immediate trial. According to military law, a military vehicle involved in a traffic offence must be taken off the road for two weeks. If an officer is in the vehicle, he must face trial as it is the duty of an officer inside a vehicle to make sure that the

vehicle is being driven according to law.

One vehicle with a lieutenant colonel inside was caught not stopping at a stop sign on the Or Yehuda-Bait Dagan road. The officer and the driver claimed that they had stopped. But the two were sent to trial.

In another incident, an air force officer, who had hitchhiked a ride in a car stopped for speeding, found he was to stand trial. At first he refused to give the MPs any information or even to identify himself. He only started to cooperate when he was told that if he continued to refuse cooperation, he would face additional charges.

Bus fares to rise by 15%; taxis, 19%

Jerusalem Post Staff
Fares on urban and inter-urban buses will increase by 15 per cent as of next Wednesday (August 15), the Transport Ministry spokesman announced yesterday. Taxi fares, both urban and inter-urban, will increase by some 19 per cent.

Urban bus fares of IS45 will be increased to IS50, and fares of IS65 will go up to IS80.

The Jerusalem-Tel Aviv bus ride will cost IS380 instead of IS340 and a round-trip will cost IS685 instead of IS610.

The Jerusalem-Haifa one-way will be IS800 instead of IS730 and Tel Aviv-Haifa will cost IS470 instead of IS420.

Tel Aviv-Eilat will cost IS1,500 instead of IS1,300 and Jerusalem-Eilat IS1,450 instead of IS1,270.

The Tel Aviv-Beersheba ride will cost IS470 and Jerusalem-Beersheba IS600.

Kiryat Ata workers strike over non-payment

HAIFA. — The 800 employees of the Kiryat Ata town council in the bay-side area stayed away from work yesterday to protest against non-payment of their salaries.

They expect to stay out until they are paid. The council has run out of money and the Interior Ministry, which had been expected to refill the till, announced yesterday that poor management was the principal reason for the council's indebtedness.

The council's indebtedness is estimated at IS1.5 million.

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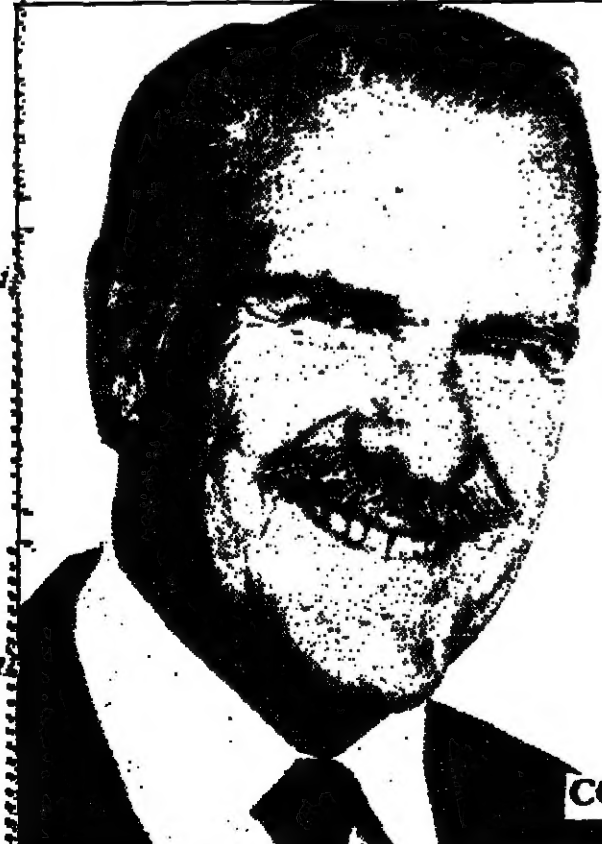
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Finance Committee criticizes criteria for state funding

Jerusalem Post Staff
MK Avraham Melamed yesterday expressed surprise that while state funding of yeshivas has been stopped, funds continue to reach other institutions without clear guidelines. Melamed was speaking at a meeting of the Knesset Finance Committee.

Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir said he agreed in principle with Melamed.

The discussion followed the High Court of Justice's decision on an application by Habad hassidim who complained that they were being discriminated against in state subsidies. The High Court ruled that money should be awarded only on the basis of clear criteria or guidelines.

The Religious Affairs Ministry was instructed to formulate such guidelines. Zamir said that the court ruling should also apply to other institutions, and a directive would be sent to all government institutions regarding the formulation of guidelines for money awards.

The Education Ministry guidelines for allocations of funds were described at the meeting as "too general."

Ariel Weinstein (Likud) said that too often Knesset members acted as lobbyists during meetings of the Finance Committee, rather than as objective judges of the needs of various institutions.

Attendants suspected of petrol swindle

By MENAHEM HOROWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TIBERIAS. — Three petrol station attendants were arrested yesterday on suspicion of cheating the Egged bus cooperative of millions of shekels over a period of more than a year.

Police believe the attendants altered receipts for fuel supplied to Egged buses passing through the Beit Shean Valley and the Jordan Rift listing much larger amounts than were actually provided.

Two attendants worked at the

Mifgash Habeka's station north of Jericho and the third at a station in the town of Beit Shean.

The police placed the two stations under surveillance and believe they have discovered various types of swindling.

The police have asked the IDF to check whether IDF drivers have been cheated in a similar fashion.

In Tel Aviv yesterday, a petrol station attendant was arrested on suspicion of stealing IS350,000 from the station kitty.

Anti-pollution order to plant delayed

By LIOA MORIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Shimonosei cement factory near Beit Shemesh will only be ordered by governmental authorities to use anti-pollution filters if local authorities can show that they can enforce the order.

Uri Marinov, director of the Environment Protection Service, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that he hopes to issue such an order soon. However, he noted that "in Haifa, the anti-pollution orders worked because the local authorities were strong enough to make sure the cement factory there abided by it."

A spokesman for one of the moshavim near the Shimonosei factory told *The Post* that while the residents of Beit Shemesh are hardly conscious of the problems of pollution, the moshavim suffer and want some action.

Three years ago, local residents protested against the pollution, and filters were installed in the factory. However, because the filters are

expensive to run and maintain, the plant does not use them. In 1976, during a building slump, the plant closed for five years, and residents say they could feel the difference.

"All of a sudden, everything looked green again. And now the problem has returned. We have a much higher incidence of asthma than we should and no one has yet tried to investigate the connection between asthma and cement dust," the spokesman said.

894 efficiency proposals make the grade at Defence

Nearly 1,700 efficiency proposals were submitted to efficiency committees in the Defence Ministry and the Israel Defence Forces last year, of which 894 were put into operation, the government spokesman said yesterday.

A total of over IS1 million was awarded by the committees to those who had submitted the proposals.

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Sri Lanka guerrillas attack more banks

COLOMBO (Reuters). - Separatist guerrillas yesterday attacked two more state banks and a shop in the northern city of Jaffna and Sri Lankan troops responded by opening fire, official sources said.

Jaffna residents said that at least two people were killed and nine injured when troops, patrolling the streets in armoured vehicles, opened fire.

They said fresh tension gripped Jaffna, the capital of Sri Lanka's northern province, as convoys of troops rolled down the streets and gunfire was heard.

Shops put up shutters, people kept off the streets and buses stopped running, they said.

These were the latest incidents after guerrillas mounted attacks on

security forces at the weekend and troops launched a counter-offensive, in which about 70 Tamils were killed in the last two days.

Yesterday, incidents erupted as National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali denied foreign press reports that many civilians died in military operations this week.

"Utter rubbish" Athulathmudali said in response to the reports that said more than 100 civilians had been killed, the northern town of Valveturai flattened by naval shelling, and about 1,000 Tamil youths arrested.

He said the "exaggerated reports" were part of a disinformation campaign by separatists aimed at delegating now attending a meeting in Geneva of the UN Subcommittee on Human Rights.

One dead in N. Ireland in anniversary violence

BELFAST (Reuters). - Riots erupted across Northern Ireland early yesterday on the 13th anniversary of the introduction of internment without trial for republican activists.

Police said one man was killed by his own bomb, at least eight people were injured and dozens were arrested as violence swept Belfast, Londonderry and Newry, near the Irish Republic.

Security forces braced for further violence on what is traditionally a day of bloody rioting against British rule of the province, although internment without trial was effectively lifted in December 1975. Extra troops were on the streets and police roadblocks were set up.

In Belfast, rioters barricaded streets in Catholic areas of the city overnight and hurled several hundred petrol bombs at security forces.

a police spokesman said. Police responded by firing about 200 plastic bullets, he said. Four people hit by the bullets, one seriously injured in the head, were taken to hospital. Fifty people were arrested.

In Londonderry, about 50 fire-bombs were thrown at police and several people were arrested, the spokesman said.

The man who died, Kevin Waters, 24, was killed when a nail bomb went off prematurely in his sister's Newry home, police said.

U.S. hospitals receive wounded Afghan rebels

WASHINGTON (Reuters). - Seven wounded Afghan rebels arrived for treatment at U.S. military hospitals last night, marking direct U.S. government aid to insurgents fighting Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

The seven, including a 10-year-old boy with a bullet lodged in his head, were flown to the U.S. because their wounds were too severe to be treated in refugee hospitals in Pakistan.

They will be treated free of charge, the Pentagon said. Congressional and Defence sources said it was the first publicly acknowledged U.S. assistance to the rebels, although Congress has provided substantial covert economic and military aid to the Afghan resistance since Soviet troops invaded the country in December 1979.

Iranian hijackers to stand trial in Rome

ROME (Reuters). - Two Iranians arrested Wednesday night for hijacking an Iranian Airbus to Rome are to stand trial next week, Rome's assistant prosecutor said yesterday.

Antonio Vincini said he had ordered Mohsen Rahgozar, 17, and Hossein Eftekhari, 18, to stand trial on Monday, bypassing the usual procedure where criminal suspects in Italy can spend long periods in detention waiting for their cases to be dealt with.

The two, who surrendered to police after six hours of negotiations and after releasing their 303 hostages unharmed, could face up to 21 years imprisonment.

ROYAL VISIT. - Chinese leaders have suggested that Britain's Queen Elizabeth II visit China next year, the Far Eastern Economic Review reported in its latest issue this week.

Kuron, top Polish dissident, leaves jail under amnesty

WARSAW (Reuters). - Poland's most prominent dissident intellectual, Jacek Kuron, was released from prison yesterday under the July 21 government amnesty, his relatives said.

Kuron, 50, was a senior adviser to the outlawed Solidarity labour movement and a founder-member of the dissident group KOR (workers defence committee).

He had been held at Warsaw's Rakowiecka prison since Solidarity was suppressed and martial law declared in December 1981.

Kuron is the third member of KOR, which is now disbanded, to be

freed under the amnesty. Adam Michnik and Zbigniew Romaszewski were released last Saturday and Tuesday respectively. A fourth KOR activist, Henryk Wujec, is still in Rakowiecka.

All four went on trial last month accused of plotting to overthrow Communist rule. The trial was abandoned when the amnesty was declared.

Kuron, a writer, helped unite Poland's intellectual community with its workers in the years leading up to the birth of Solidarity in August 1980.

Bonn warns of Soviet missile edge

BONN (Reuters). - The NATO allies must take account of a nine-to-one Soviet lead in short-range nuclear missiles in Europe and insist that they be included in future arms talks, a senior aide of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said yesterday.

Juergen Todenhofer, chief disarmament spokesman for Kohl's Christian Democrat (CDU) Party, said Moscow's build-up of short-range SS-20 and SS-23 missiles in

Europe had created a new threat. The West was today outnumbered by 650 to 72 in the category of nuclear missiles with ranges of 150-1,000 kilometres. Todenhofer said in a press statement.

Such weapons, based in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, were within striking distance of cities in Britain, France, Belgium and virtually all of West Germany, he added.

Soviets ground the 'Concordski' for good

MOSCOW (Reuters). - The Soviet Union's Tupolev-144 supersonic airliner, one of the most expensive failures in aviation history, has been grounded for good, a senior official of the state airline Aeroflot said yesterday.

Nikolai Poluyanchik, head of Aeroflot's international traffic division, told a press conference the airline had decided after tests and a few months service that the TU-

144's running costs were too high to justify its use.

"We are not going to use it. We are simply not prepared to use an aircraft which has proved to be inefficient," he said.

The TU-144, known in the West as the "Concordski" because of its similarity to the Anglo-French Concorde, was dogged with problems throughout its brief history.

Yorkshire miners take union to court

LONDON (Reuters). - Two Yorkshire miners yesterday launched a court battle against their union for failing to ballot members on Britain's 22-week-old coal strike.

A lawyer for the two coalface workers, Bob Taylor and Ken Foulstone, said the miners' union had infringed the democratic rights of rank and file members who had been forced to strike without consultation.

The Yorkshire area of the 180,000-strong National Union of Mineworkers said it would strongly contest the action when it comes to a full hearing in late September.

The case was adjourned yesterday while the two men gather further evidence against the union. They claim there is widespread concern among miners that individual members should have a say in whether the strike should continue.

Rich get richer, poor poorer in UK

LONDON (Reuters). - Britain's rich are getting richer under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government and the poor are relatively worse off, according to government figures released yesterday.

A study by the government's Central Statistical Office showed the top fifth of wage-earners increased their pre-tax earnings by 2.4 per centage points to 45 per cent of national earnings in 1981-82.

The rich were also ahead after tax, while almost all other groups saw their income share cut by about one per cent.

Tax changes tended to favour the top 10 per cent and also the poorer half of the community, mainly pensioners and those living on social security. The poor nevertheless saw a decline in their share of the national wage.

James de Rothschild, 88

PARIS (AP). - Baron James de Rothschild, one of the French-based descendants of the British branch of the Rothschild financial family, has died, family sources said Wednesday. He was 88.

Rothschild, who died Tuesday, was a former administrator of the Society d'Investissement de l'Est and a former mayor of Compiègne, north of Paris. He was the eldest brother of the Baron Philippe de Rothschild, owner of the world famous Mouton Rothschild vineyards.

Richard Burton buried in Switzerland

CELIGNY (Reuters). - Actor Richard Burton's family and close friends said goodbye to him yesterday at a funeral service in Switzerland seen by television viewers in the U.S. and heard by 200 Swiss villagers over loudspeakers.

The Welsh stage and screen star, who died last Sunday aged 58, was buried quietly in a village cemetery at Celigny, the peaceful lakeside village he had made his home for 25 years.

AIRLINE STRIKE. - Workers at Greece's state-owned Olympic Airways staged a four-hour strike this week in defiance of a government ban and flights were seriously disrupted, union and airline officials said.

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Lewis wins 200m., Morocco gets gold, Ivory Coast silver

LOS ANGELES. - Carl Lewis took his third giant stride into history as one of the Olympian immortals when he won the 200m. with ease in an Olympics record time of 19.80, breaking the record set by Tommie Smith in the high altitude of Mexico City in 1968.

Another memorable development on the 12th day of the Olympics was a victory for Morocco's Nawal el Moutawakel in the newly introduced women's 400m. hurdles - she was the first Moroccan ever to strike gold in the Olympics, and instantaneously became a national heroine.

Pierre Quinon won the pole vault, giving France its first gold in track and field in these Olympics.

Alonzo Babers (U.S.) took the men's 400m., in the absence of Bert Cameron, of Jamaica, who was compelled to scratch because of the injury he sustained during the semifinals. Second to Babers was Gabriel Tiaoh, of the Ivory Coast, a country that has never before won an Olympic medal.

In the decathlon, Daley Thompson of Great Britain had a magnificent day in the first five of the 10 events, and he has already established a significant lead in points over his bitter rival, world record holder Juergen Hingsen, of West Germany.

Lewis was followed in the 200m. by his fellow Americans, Kirk Baptiste and Thomas Jefferson, giving the U.S. a complete medals sweep, the first one attained by any country at these games.

An elated Lewis said afterwards: "I went out a little bit too hard and paid the price at the end. I have got a God-given talent, and as long as the Lord keeps me moving I will keep on running."

Morocco's Nawal el Moutawakel could hardly believe it when she sped across the finish line first in 54.61.

She held her head in her hands, wept, then grabbed a Moroccan flag and jogged a victory lap waving to a cheering crowd, while still crying.

American Judi Brown was second in 55.20 and Rumania's Cristina Cocaru finished third in 55.41.

Thousands of Moroccans stayed up all night with ears glued to their radios to hear news of the diminutive 22-year-old's win - greeted by a chorus of ear horns in the capital.

King Hassan was one of the first to congratulate her by telephone soon after she set an Olympic record.

Morocco's Soir stressed she was the first African woman to win a gold at these Olympics.

Alonzo Babers restored the men's 400 metres title to the U.S. for the first time since 1972. He stormed through on the home straight to win from Tiaoh of the Ivory Coast in 44.27.

Antonio McKay just clinched the bronze in a photo finish ahead of Darren Clark, the 18-year-old Australian who had set the pace for most of the race.

Babers, a second-lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force who wants to be a jet pilot, said Bert Cameron had told him he was going to scratch from the race during the warm-up.

"He wished me the best of luck and told me to make it a good race," McKay, the fastest man in the world over the distance this year, was bitterly disappointed at his failure to win the gold.

"This is one of the saddest days of my life. I ran my best race and I was defeated. I am very disappointed in myself," he said.

Babers, who clinched a U.S. pennant to his heart as the American national anthem was played at the medal ceremony, hugged his teammate in consolation before receiving his prize.

Tiaoh was overjoyed with his silver medal. "This is the first time the Ivory Coast has got a medal in the Olympics. It feels great. It makes me feel very proud," he said.

Pierre Quinon gave France its first Olympic athletics title in eight years when he won the pole vault ahead of American Mike Tully. Former world record-holder Quinon, 22, was the

only man to clear 5.70 and 5.75 metres.

Tully, 28, who had waited eight years for his shot at the Olympic title, managed 5.65 on his third and last attempt.

It was the first athletic gold for France since Guy Druet won the 110 metres hurdles in 1976 and ended a jinx which had long beset the nation's pole-vaulters, who had set a string of world records but never won an Olympic or world title.

Thierry Vigneron, who won the European indoor title ahead of Quinon earlier this year, and American Earl Bell shared the bronze medals with 5.60.

Defending champion Daley Thompson of Britain held a heartening 114-point advantage over his West German arch-rival Juergen Hingsen at the halfway stage of the decathlon. Hingsen holds the world record, but has never beaten Thompson in competition.

Thompson piled up points in the 100 metres, long jump and 400 metres, while the towering Hingsen, had the edge, as usual, in the shot and high jump.

The Briton had compiled 4,658 points by the end of the day and led, by much the same margin as he did at the halfway stage of last year's world championships, in which he won the gold and Hingsen the silver.

Double world champion Mary Decker of the U.S. opened her challenge for the Olympic 3,000 metres title by winning her first round heat in eight minutes 44.38 seconds with a typical display of confident front-running.

Zola Budd, running for Britain after leaving her native South Africa, qualified comfortably for today's final, settling for third place in 8:44.62 in a race won by powerful Rumanian Maricica Puica in 8:43.32.

Tragedy struck former world record holder Sydney Marce, who has pulled out of the 1,500 metres because of a recurring hamstring injury.

Medals tally

	G	S	B	Total
U.S.	24	10	13	47
West Germany	10	13	13	36
Rumania	16	12	9	37
China	14	7	6	27
Czechoslovakia	7	9	9	25
Britain	4	6	10	20
Australia	4	8	11	23
Japan	7	4	10	21
Italy	10	3	7	20
France	4	2	11	17
Finland	4	3	4	11
Sweden	0	2	3	5
Netherlands	3	2	4	9
N. Zealand	4	0	2	6
S. Korea	2	3	1	6
Brazil	1	2	2	5
Belgium	1	1	2	4
Yugoslavia	2	1	2	5
Switzerland	0	2	2	4
Austria	1	1	1	3
Norway	0	1	2	3
Denmark	0	1	2	3
Spain	1	1	0	2
Greece	0	1	1	2
Morocco	1	0	0	1
Colombia	0	1	0	1
Ivory Coast	0	1	0	1
Peru	0	1	0	1
Jamaica	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Taiwan	0	0	1	1
Venezuela	0	0	1	1

Israelis at the games

Post Sports Staff

LOS ANGELES. - Maya Ben-Tzur, the Israeli long jumper, finished seventh in her group in the long jump preliminaries in the Olympic games, with a jump of 6.01m., well below her best of 6.24. This was not good enough to enable her to qualify for the final. Arye Gamliel came 10th in his heat of the 5000m. and failed to go through to the semi-finals.

Israeli yachtsmen Shimon Brokman and Eytan Friedlander finished seventh in the 470 class yachting competition, and Yoel Sela and Eldad Amir came eighth in the Flying Dutchman event.

Still competing are Mark Handelman in the 1,500m., and Liat Chani-novich in rhythmic gymnastics.

Strongest man

LOS ANGELES (Reuters). - A millionaire Australian fisherman, listed as interested in women, beer and money, proved that he is the strongest man of the 1984 Olympics, although he takes training very casually.

Burly 24-year-old Dean Lukin, who made his money from the family tuna fishing fleet working the tumbling seas of the Great Australian Bight, netted the gold medal in the superheavyweight weightlifting.

It was the first Olympic weightlifting gold to be won by an Australian. Lukin trailed American Mario Martinez after the snatch, but the Australian wrestled the gold with his mightiest clean-and-jerk of 210 kg. for a new Commonwealth record of 412.5 kg. Martinez, a bearded 27-year-old chauffeur, lifted 410 kg, but still had to settle for the silver. West German soldier Manfred Nerlinger, 24, collected the bronze with 397.5 kg.

Basketball finalists

LOS ANGELES (Reuters). - The U.S. outclassed Canada and Spain, beat defending Olympic champions Yugoslavia to reach the men's basketball gold medal match.

The unbeaten U.S. team, whose seven victories have been by an average margin of 32 points, defeated heavy favourites in the final, having handed Spain their only defeat, by 33 points, earlier in the tournament.

"Everybody thinks the U.S. will win easily," said Spanish coach Antonio Diaz Miguel. "But we must play. The game is not over yet." Spain, playing near-flawless basketball in the second half, overcame Yugoslavia 74-61 (35-40).

England rock W.I.

Post Sports Staff
England enjoyed her best day yet in the present international series of cricket Tests against the West Indies, dismissed for 196. After Clive Lloyd won the toss and elected to bat, the English batsmen bowlers tore the Windies batting order, only Lloyd (69 not out) and Baptiste (30) offering any resistance. Ian Botham, taking 5 for 72, took his 302nd Test wicket. Paul Allott and new bowlers Richard Eddon and Jonathan Aggar gave Botham very strong support. England lost the wicket of Chris Broad before 25 minutes of play, ending with 10 for 1.

Baseball: Wednesday

National League
Chicago 7, New York 6 (inning 4 was over the Mets in a row); Montreal 3, Philadelphia 1; Cincinnati 4, San Diego 2; Los Angeles 5, Atlanta 1; Pittsburgh 6, St. Louis 4; Houston 7, San Francisco 6, 12 innings.

American League
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Why should you and your children continue to be the victims of a dispute - the split in the Zionist Movement - that is more than 60 years old - a dispute that has given rise to hatred and divisiveness, that continues until today and now threatens our very existence!

If you became aware of the danger of a final split involving you, or between you and your children, between members of your family, between yourself and your neighbours... you would see the need to act. Do act now... raise your voice so that those you elected will hear.

No longer should it be that "the fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge." Rather should there be a time of true reconciliation.

If you look at yourself and at your surroundings, your heart will tell you of the paramount imperative of reconciliation - that will melt the hearts of stone.

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IT WAS reported this week that the Treasury, in search of credits to prop up Israel's dwindling foreign currency reserves, has in recent weeks been forced to borrow on increasingly onerous terms. It has even been willing to accept loans of a paltry million dollars. If true, it is a humiliating decline from the average credit line of \$25m. which Israel has been accustomed to negotiating until not so long ago.

What this means is that the State of Israel, in its 37th year, is on the brink of being back financially, to where it was in its first few years. Only old-timers will remember those far-off days, when Israel's finance minister sometimes had to borrow sums of \$50,000 or \$100,000 from some friendly Jewish businessmen abroad to pay for a tanker load of oil or a shipment of wheat.

There were no reserves then, and it was the traumatic experience of those days that made the economic leadership lay down the iron rule — that Israel had to maintain a reserve of foreign currency which must not be allowed to fall below a specified "red line."

That "red line" — conceived by the late David Horowitz, the founder and first governor of the Bank of Israel — has over the years come to be set at about three months' worth of imports. It is an arbitrary line, but it has served Israel well, providing it with the means to meet contingencies and of bolstering its creditworthiness.

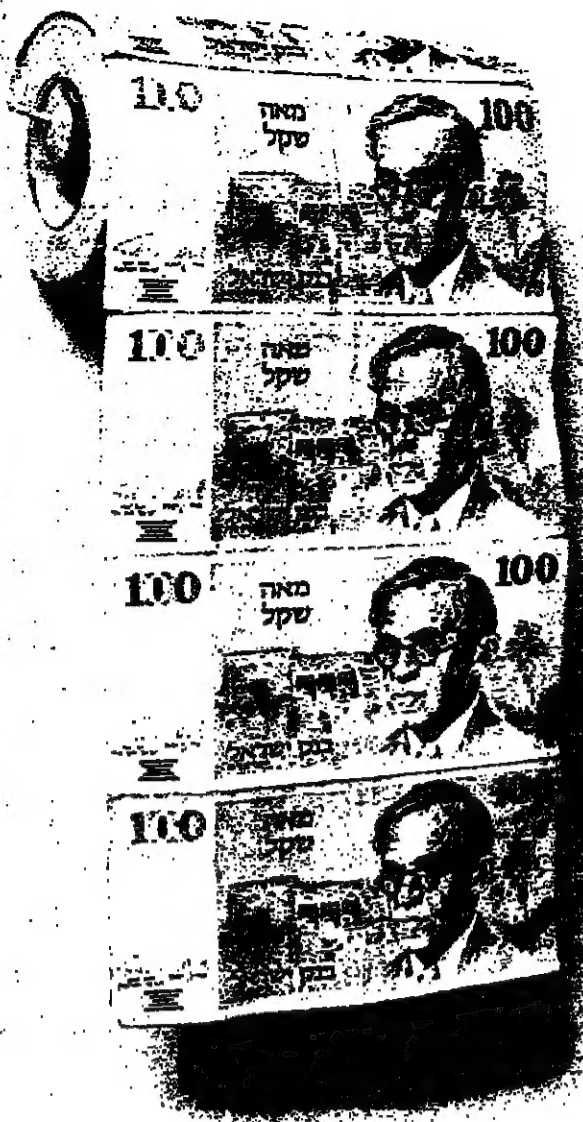
In the two months before the elections, the Treasury allowed these reserves to fall far below the "red line" which, since the end of 1977, has stood at about \$3b. By how much, only the finance minister, the governor of the central bank, and their senior officials know exactly. The officially admitted fall is some \$950m. in July, or some 12 per cent. Unofficially, it is hardly denied that this followed a similar drop in the reserves in June, which was covered up by various devices by which the monthly statement on the reserves published by the Bank of Israel can be "doctored."

THESE DEVICES are many. There are overnight loans that can be taken from banks abroad and deposited in the Bank of Israel. Our own commercial banks can be "induced" to borrow from foreign banks in order to re-lend the money for a day to the central bank. The Treasury, which keeps substantial reserves of its own (in addition to those held by the Bank of Israel), can take part of its own cash and deposit it in the central bank in order to beef up the official reserves. The U.S. government can be asked, as happened at the end of 1983, to advance Israel the entire amount of outstanding aid, in cash. Other institutions that have substantial cash flows with Israel can also be enlisted to give the reserves a facelift.

Nor is this all. Luckily, the economy has, in addition to the Treasury's separate cash reserves (which are a good thing by themselves, even if irregular and bordering on the unlawful by not being deposited with the government's fiscal agent, the Bank of Israel), real reserves of

The bottom of the barrel

Israel is on the brink of returning to the perilous economic circumstances that marked the early years of the state, writes Post Economic Editor Meir Merhav. The impression of the economy at right is by photographer Douglas Guthrie.



stocks of fuel, wheat, edible oil, meat and commodities. These can be run down (and have occasionally been run down) to give the cash reserves a cosmetic treatment.

WHY, THEN, the alarm over the fall in the foreign reserves that rang out in tones bordering on panic as soon as the elections were over? Why, if it was possible to window-dress the reserves in June, was it not possible, to repeat the exercise in July? Moreover, what real difference does it make if a country with imports and exports together totalling \$25b. keeps its liquid reserves at \$3b. or at \$2.5b.?

The silence of the Treasury and the Bank of Israel on the true state of the reserves before the elections is understandable, albeit unpardonable, if the drain on the reserves really spells a danger to the economy. Bank of Israel Governor Moshe Mandelbaum was scolded for not disclosing the true state of the reserves to the Knesset Finance Committee and, poor man, defended himself by quoting a warning letter he had sent at the beginning of July to the prime minister and the finance minister.

Treasury officials, who do not have the independent status which the law gives the governor of the

central bank, have presumably given the finance minister similar warnings. The truth is that the governor of the central bank could not do much by himself — and timidity is a defect, but not a crime. The real culprit is Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad, who could have taken action but, instead, looked on passively as the public treasury was being pilfered.

The belated alarm on the day after the elections, with the imposition of stricter currency controls, value-added tax on foreign currency allocations for travel and other imported services, and the admission, in the Bank of Israel's monthly statement for July 31 that the reserves had shrunk by \$350m., have their simplest explanation in that, the Treasury had longer felt it necessary to keep the illusion that all was for the best in the best of all possible worlds.

With the elections over, it may have felt that alarming news might prepare the public to accept harsh economic policy measures.

THIS EXPLANATION tacitly assumes that the Treasury could have gone on window-dressing the reserve statement, and that it consciously refrained from further lying

with statistics in order to give the public and policy-makers, in the outgoing as well as in any incoming government, a jolt.

The real situation, however, may be more sinister. It may be that the Treasury cannot go much further in giving the main indicator of our foreign payments position, the volume of reserves, a face-lift.

A country with a foreign trade the size of Israel's does not negotiate short-term credits of \$1 million unless it absolutely must. Window-dressing has its limits. It is one thing to beautify the monthly statement by 50 or 100 million dollars. To do that — and it is a common practice for countries as for business firms — it is normally only necessary to go to one or two commercial banks abroad and

take up an overnight loan.

It is a completely different matter if a country has already taken up short-term credits to the tune of 10 per cent of its entire reserves and wants another 10 per cent to obscure its true financial state.

When the amounts needed run into the hundreds of millions of dollars, one can no longer go to one or two banks. One has to shop around in half a dozen or more. That becomes the talk of the town, because banking secrecy does not extend to stopping bankers from informing each other informally about what they think of the creditworthiness of important customers.

THIS LEADS us to the question of what difference it makes whether we keep our foreign reserves at one or

the other level, and why the \$3b. to which the government has adhered since 1977 is sacrosanct.

A national economy needs cash reserves for the same reasons a private individual or business firm needs them. In theory, if the flow of income always matched the flow of expenditure and both were equal, there would be no need for cash reserves. In reality, of course, that is not so. At any point in time, revenue may not equal expenditure.

There are uncertainties — expected revenues may not materialize, or materialize later than expected — and there is the need to be able to take advantage of opportunities, such as buying commodities when their prices are favourable.

Most important of all, just as an individual must keep a reserve for contingencies, such as illness, sudden damage to his property, and other unforeseen expenditures, so a country must be prepared for contingencies.

The \$3b. level of reserves that has been regarded as Israel's normal and necessary contingency fund is, of course, no sacrosanct figure. It has been established empirically, and has been accepted as such by the international financial community.

As long as it is maintained at a stable level, and there are no other adverse developments in Israel's foreign payments position, there is no reason for foreign bankers to raise their eyebrows. What is more, if Israel had no trade gap, or if it was steadily improving its balance of payments position and reducing its foreign debt, it could even reduce its foreign currency reserves without so much as a murmur from foreign creditors.

What alarms foreign creditors is not the absolute level of the reserves, but their sudden decline. And, bankers, being notoriously willing to lend an umbrella when the sun shines, tend to become tight-fisted when they see that a heavily indebted country's reserves fall.

Unfortunately, the story does not end with the bankers. Suppliers also extend credit, and they are usually re-financed by banks. When they receive a signal from their bankers that a country's creditworthiness is wobbly, they will want cash payments.

THE UPSHOT is that the less reserves a country has, the more it needs. Below some indeterminate "red line," it may suddenly be impossible to meet contingencies. Any external shock — an oil crisis, a flare-up of hostilities or a deterioration of the defence position, a revolution in a country that is a major supplier of some strategic commodity, or even the crash of a major bank

somewhere — may snowball and become a major payments crisis.

However, although the reserves are the first indicator to which bankers look (even if they know that, by themselves, they mean little) to assess a country's financial position and creditworthiness, the real problem is not what size of the reserves we keep. It is the trade gap, which now amounts to a staggering \$5b. — twice as much as in 1977.

If we manage to close that gap by increasing exports and reducing imports, we might build up the reserves or reduce our foreign debt (which amounts to the same thing). If we don't, our foreign payments can only be balanced by borrowing more.

There is a limit to that. The U.S. has already gone as far as it can in bailing Israel out by giving the entire amount of its aid this year as a grant. That not only keeps Israel's debt lower but also does not saddle it with interest charges, which now run at 12 per cent a year. U.S. aid, however, is \$2.2b. out of a trade gap of some \$5b. Most of the remaining \$2.8b. will still have to be borrowed.

THE PUBLIC is unaware of the specific dangers arising from all this — and yet, it is quite aware of the general dangers. Israelis are aware that the fool's paradise, which the Likud's election propaganda presented as its main achievement, cannot last. That is why they rushed to buy dollars and everything that could be bought for shekels. Paradoxically, a very large part of the public which voted rationally at the bank counters, did not draw the same conclusion in the polling booths. They refused to draw the political conclusions from their own demonstrative lack of confidence in the future of the economy and in the economic policies of the Likud government.

Apparently, the only way to bring a realization of the facts of life home to the public is either an extremely unpopular policy of economic stringency, with a sharp cut in personal incomes, recession and mass unemployment, or an economic crisis that would have the same results, but would be uncontrolled and therefore of unpredictable dimensions.

Alternative to either of these scenarios are conceivable. Unfortunately, the political stalemate of the last elections have ruled them out as practical propositions. It is a sorry thought that only the human misery of unemployment and the economic waste of recession may be the means by which Israelis can be nudged into a true political awareness, in the sense of making a choice between rational goals to be attained by rational means, and the pursuit of unattainable messianic goals or selfish and petty sectarian interests.

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WHERE IS Menachem Begin now that we need him? Even those who disagreed with the former premier's views never questioned his reputation as a stickler for proper procedures. It's a pity he's not around to stop his heirs, especially Deputy Premier David Levy, who is ignoring the mandate that President Chaim Herzog bestowed on Labour Party chairman Shimon Peres and is carrying on with parallel coalition negotiations.

No wonder graffiti are sprouting on Tel Aviv buildings proclaiming: "Free Menachem Begin!"

President Herzog will surely go down in history for his efforts to protect our troubled democracy and for his sounding the alarm this week. At Elmad Omer's prompting, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir issued an official disclaimer dissociating himself from statements made by Likud Knesset faction head Ronnie Milo, challenging both the president's authority and his decision to confer the mandate on the Labour leader.

The reason Herzog looks so fit, despite his gruelling schedule, is that he has been able to continue having his daily swim, which was routine while he lived in Herzliya. Having turned down an American friend's offer to donate a pool to Beit Hanasi, the President has a private pool at his disposal in Jerusalem.

THE PRESIDENT of the Israel Academy of Sciences, Prof. Ephraim Urbach earned widespread applause for appealing to both Shamir and Peres to sink their differences in a broad coalition. Keeping his call in the historical context of Tisha B'Av, the eminent scholar urged the party leaders: "Do all that is in your power, lest future generations have cause to lament that because of Kamtza and Bar-Kamtza, the Temple was destroyed."

Deputy Premier David Levy has emerged as the first among equals on the Likud's list of opponents of the unity scheme they invented. One must recall that the deputy premier was also a stumbling block

in the national unity talks that preceded the first Shamir Cabinet. Both he and Milo have been displaying their less attractive sides, threatening the National Religious Party's Dr. Yosef Burg, Shas' Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, and even Yehuda Ezer Weizman with sieges by thousands of angry demonstrators, should they go with Labour.

In Herut, it is said that Levy does not relish the prospect of either serving in a senior post in a Labour-led government or reverting to his old role as rabble-rousing opposition front-bencher.

FOLLOWING THE departure of Menachem Begin from the premiership, Yitzhak Rabin successfully foiled unity coalition talks from the Labour side. Now Levy and his fellow Likudniks are looking to Rabin to help them keep Peres out of the P.M.'s chair. It's also said that Metzdah Ze'ev that they're basing their calculations on the expectations that both Rabin and Yitzhak Navon will prefer to serve under Shamir in a broad coalition as - respectively - defence and foreign ministers, than without such portfolios under Peres.

IT'S INTERESTING to learn, in a week when Ometz' Yigael Hurvitz declared himself ready to help his old Rafi pal Peres become premier, that only a year ago the Labour leader might have been able to form a government, had Hurvitz not been so opposed to his old Telem co-MK Mordechai Ben-Porat's initiative to join forces with Labour.

THE 11TH KNESSET'S first hurdle is to find a speaker. Labour is offering either Shlomo Hillel or Rabbi Menachem Hacohen; the Likud - Meir Cohen-Avidor; left-wing MKs have mentioned Shimon's Amnon Rubinstein, and some Likudniks have volunteered the NRP's Avner Solasky. However, the latter prefers to try and replace Zevulun Hammer at the Education Ministry.

Incidentally, neither of the warring Liberal factions of Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i or Tourism

IGNORING THE RULES

PUBLIC FACES / Mark Segal



Chaim Herzog



Ephraim Urbach

Minister Avraham Shafir have bothered to nominate a speaker, or indeed had a word to say publicly in connection with the national unity coalition talks. Are they for or against?

I GOT A very irate phone call from Hebrew University Vice-President Simcha Dinitz about my disclosure last week that Peres had asked veteran party educationalist Mordechai Nisimahu to head an enquiry into the shortcomings of the party campaign operation.

First of all, Dinitz complained, party spokesman Yossi Beilin had already denied that any enquiry was being conducted into the campaign. Beit Ben's Nissimahu was appointed to conduct a social-political study of the meaning of the election results, he maintained. Secondly, he was very upset that when mentioning who's already been fingered as the

guilty parties - except for TV boss Yossi Sarid - I reported him as being in charge of radio spots. "I was in charge of both radio and TV spots," Dinitz said.

PROF. Yehoshafat Harkabi offered his own version of the lesson to be drawn from Tisha B'Av. "The Temple would have fallen even if the Jews had been united," he told Israel Radio. "The lesson to be learned is to follow realistic policies and to know the limitations of your power."

HERUT VETERAN octogenarian Dr. Yohanan Bader took the unusual step this week, in his weekly column in *Ma'ariv*, of publicly reprimanding his old comrade Menachem Begin for not having come to their party's rescue in its hour of need.

ANYONE HEARD of the American University of Jerusalem? The man behind it is Itamar Marcus - close to right-wing circles - who has been promising degree courses to

potential American students, despite repeated announcements over the past 18 months by the Council for Higher Education that such a private venture is illegal. It emerges that Marcus enjoys the backing of Yuval Ne'eman, who has promised him a site beyond the Green Line, where the academic criteria of the council do not hold. Says Ne'eman: "It's not the council's job either to interfere in the affairs of the Arab colleges in Judea and Samaria."

THEY'RE SAYING that the foreign ministry compound has been flooded with Dalhousie ever since Ezer Weizman - who owns the agency - was mentioned as a likely minister. And I hear that the NRP is asking both Labour and the Likud for the job of ambassador to the UN for ex-deputy foreign minister, New York-born Yehuda Ben-Meir. What's clear is that Yehuda Blum will not succeed in getting Foreign Minister Shamir to extend his term into its sixth year. I gather that his post will be filled, until a permanent appointment, either by his deputy Arye Levin or by veteran ministry diplomat Pinhas Ellav. Meanwhile, Blum is said to have his eyes on the presidency of Bar-Ilan University.

OUR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL consul-general in New York, Naftali Lavie and his wife Joan have been here to attend the *brut mila* of their second grandson in Moshav Beit Yair near Arad, where their son Shai and his fellow ex-paratroopers have set up their homes. Lavie's brother, Netanya Chief Rabbi Israel Lau, officiated. Lavie recently helped arrange for a delegation of top black and Hispanic New York civic leaders, such as Basil Patterson, who is contesting next year's mayoral election, to visit here under the auspices of the Jewish Committee for Community Relations.

Also here on home leave is Lavie's dynamic press consul Uri Sariv, who told me that the U.S. media referred to our polls as "The Other Elections." He related that a senior executive of one of the three TV networks phoned him in all seriousness with: "Say, could you ask your people to schedule your elections between the Democratic and Republic-

can conventions?" In the end, the network's programme scheduling problem worked itself out.

WHILE SHAMIR has kept the key information job vacant at the Washington embassy because the Foreign Ministry staff insist on a professional, not a political, appointee, the New York information slot will be taken by Elmad Golod, current assistant ministry spokesman, who will replace outgoing Gershon Gan, who is returning to Jerusalem.

NO ONE QUITE KNOWS what the actual duties of the spokesman of Israel's economic mission in New York are. Yet this has not stopped Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad extending the term of its three-year occupant, Uri Oren, for yet another year. At the Treasury, they've been wondering why the highly lucrative sinecure should still exist after the cancellation of the post of economic mission head earlier this year and the return to Tel Aviv of its last occupant, Israel Pecker. The Treasury rumour is that Cohen-Orgad is doing a favour to Oren's patron Deputy Premier Levy, for whom the former journalist worked during the election campaign, for which he was given home leave.

FOREIGN MINISTRY Director-General David Kimche gave a farewell luncheon at the Jerusalem Plaza in honour of El Salvador Ambassador Col. Napoleon Armando Guerra, who was praised by Kimche as "our good friend... the last envoy to leave Jerusalem, and the first to come back." Incidentally, I hear that Kimche's relations with Weizman are not the best, since the former negotiated with the latter over joining the Yahad list.

I HEAR THAT WZO/Jewish Agency chairman Arye Dulzin and Keren Hayesod chairman Dr. Avraham Avi-Hal are under pressure from American donors to change the venue of the annual get-together of Big Givers scheduled to be held

shortly before the U.S. elections, in Johannesburg. I also gather that veteran diplomat Collette Avital asked the Foreign Ministry for a transfer back home, since she could not carry out her duties as information counsellor in the Paris Embassy, because of her difficulties working under Ambassador Ovadia Sofer. She will now be in charge of training programmes at the ministry. French JNF President E. Knoll has written to me to explain that Sofer's absence from the JNF's 60th anniversary celebration had nothing to do with the presence of two of his more distinguished predecessors Walter Eytan and Asher Ben-Natan. "Sofer was otherwise engaged, and sent embassy minister Yoel Sher in his place," Knoll wrote.

AUSTRIA'S popular press and cultural attaché, Barbara Tauder, who has been away in Vienna due to family bereavement, is soon to leave Israel after serving for nine years. She will become spokeswoman to Foreign Minister Erwin Lang.

THE TEL AVIV Sheraton Hotel's inimitable public relations officer Wendy Geri is organizing the Sheraton's tribute to Tel Aviv's 75th birthday year in the form of a sandcastle competition on the beach - the hotel on Monday next (August 20). Anyone wishing to enter can do so via Wendy or on the beach itself. She's bringing clowns and the fire brigade brass band to liven up the contest.

THE MANY FRIENDS of Esther Orry mourn her death at the age of 80 a week ago during a visit to London, where she was buried. Named "the Mother of British Aliya," she helped many British olim after settling in Tel Aviv in 1948. Before coming on aliya she was very active in Zionist activities in London, working closely with Chaim Weizmann, David Ben-Gurion and Moshe Sharett at their Great Russell St. offices. After World War II, she volunteered to work among Holocaust survivors.

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سكن في القدس

AS IF his present workday of 18 hours or more — "including loafing, or course" — were not enough, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz is now launching a new project, Yeshivat Shefa, which will open its doors at the end of the month, on Rosh Hodesh Elul.

Steinsaltz, 47, is best known for his unique edition of the Babylonian Talmud, with a vowelized and punctuated text and a Hebrew translation and commentary, of which 16 volumes have already appeared. Naturally, Shefa, too, will be a yeshiva with a difference.

It intends to grapple with what Steinsaltz calls the central crisis facing the Jewish people: the widening gap, throughout the Jewish world, but especially in Israel, "between secular Jews estranged from Judaism and Orthodox Jews insulated from the world."

Neither side can afford any longer to ignore the other, he says. "For the sake of our creative survival, we must end the situation in which one group of Jews has questions but no answers, and the other answers but no questions."

Shefa plans to help begin the dialogue by changing attitudes within the Orthodox community. Its first class will consist of about 20 selected students, almost all of them graduates of Israeli yeshiva high schools.

If some practical problems are solved, notably persuading the army to grant them draft deferment, a number of highly qualified graduates of state (non-religious) schools will still be enrolled this year. They will get special tutoring to enable them to join the regular Talmud class within a short time. Beginning next year, Steinsaltz intends to admit some Diaspora yeshiva high school graduates. Diversity is the keyword.

There are now two basic types of yeshivot, says Steinsaltz: the old hasidic and Lithuanian yeshivot that teach *Tora bishmah* — for the sake of study itself — and the newer, Zionist yeshivot that teach *Tora bishvita* — for the sake of Eretz Yisrael. Shefa will introduce a third element, which is central to its philosophy: *Tora bishvil* — for the sake of the Jewish people.

AS IN OTHER advanced yeshivot,

Aryeh Rubinstein talks to Adin Steinsaltz (below) about his new yeshiva

'I will have failed only if I produce fools, cheats, people who make no contribution to society'



(Richard Nave)

Shefa's curriculum will centre around the Talmud, but this will be studied "as its creators intended" — not as dogma but as an intellectual and spiritual struggle in which questions are as important as answers.

The Talmud, says Steinsaltz, veers from the mystical to the legal, from the most complex philosophical ideas to the most mundane practical details. "Its constant movement between heaven and earth is perhaps the essence of Judaism."

So far so good. But then he makes a claim that may appear extravagant: a student who is properly trained in Talmudic thought — one who has internalized its dialectical approach rather than merely studied it — knows how to resolve competing ideas and is thus able to help heal the breach

within the Jewish people, today. But how often is that ideal realized? What does he expect his students to learn from the discussion in *Baba Kama* of the ox who gores a cow?

Once a student gets into the subject, he's not interested in oxen and cows at all, and it doesn't even matter how many oxen there are in Israel. What is important are the principles that emerge. How do you deal with conflicting claims? What is a legal claim? A moral claim? What constitutes proof? What obligation do I have to keep my animals from doing damage to my neighbour?

Steinsaltz grants that some students fail to make this leap by themselves. Shefa will give them the necessary push. It will not settle for

intellectual stimulation. It wants to get the student to internalize intellectual concepts, to connect these with everyday life.

BOTH HISTORICALLY and conceptually, he says, the Talmud has been the central pillar of Judaism, and this has nothing to do with Orthodoxy. The Talmud is an essential part of what makes a Jew, and every Jewish community that neglected Talmud study — no matter how great its devotion to Judaism — doomed itself to extinction.

If the Talmud is studied on the one-dimensional level of just learning, what it says can certainly be boring and appear irrelevant, says Steinsaltz. Even knowing the whole Talmud by heart does not do the

trick. The point is to grasp its ideas and deal with them. Then it becomes fascinating. To make it interesting and relevant it requires the student's participation and interaction.

That is why translations of the Talmud — even excellent ones — are of limited value. It's like a non-chess player reading a book on chess. Only when you begin to play can you get hooked.

SHEFA'S DECLARED GOAL is "to create an environment from which the leaders we so badly need may emerge."

These are defined as "Jews committed to a clear world-view but able to understand the concerns of those beyond their religious circle...equipped with the knowledge and depth to

make long-term decisions affecting the Jewish people, and whose lives are dedicated to Jewish renewal."

But it would be wrong to regard Shefa as a professional school dedicated to training students for careers in the Jewish community. If only a small proportion of the graduates end up in such jobs, Steinsaltz will not see this as a failure.

"What I want to produce is *menschen*. I will have failed only if I produce fools, cheats, people who make no contribution to society."

People with the right personality and the necessary knowledge can be role models, promoting new ideas and communication among Jews, whether they are lawyers or shoemakers, he says.

Of course, he adds, a political leader who is also a *mensh* can make a much greater impact — but that is almost a contradiction in terms.

The student Shefa is looking for will not only have a good mind and superior past achievement, but also courage, a sense of dedication and an inner involvement with being Jewish. "In short," says Steinsaltz, "we want the brightest and the most committed."

STUDYING AT SHEFA will hardly be a lark. The day will begin at 6 a.m. with half an hour spent studying a devotional text (ranging from the works of hasidic masters to Moshe Haim Luzzatto and Rav Kook).

The student will then be on the go until 10.30 p.m., except for an hour's break after lunch. Seven hours a day is devoted to Talmud, consisting of a one-hour lecture in the morning followed by three hours in which the students, in groups of two (*havrutot*), review the lecture and work intensively on a specific text or issue, and three hours in the afternoon, devoted to extensive study, to make the student familiar with wide sections of the Talmud.

Unlike the standard advanced yeshivot, Shefa's curriculum devotes two hours a day, one beginning at noon and one at 6.15 p.m. to lectures on Jewish philosophy, Bible, Mishna, Midrash or contemporary social and scientific trends. And from

9.00 to 10.30 p.m., the students, again in *havrutot*, will review the entire day's work.

Steinsaltz is one of Israel's leading promoters of religious-secular dialogue. He has taught mathematics and, at the age of 22, was Israel's youngest high school principal.

His books in English include *The Essential Talmud*, *Beggars and Prayers* (a commentary on the stories of Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav), and *The Thirteen Petalled Rose* (a discourse on the essence of Jewish existence and belief). In 1979, he delivered the Terry Lectures at Yale, and in 1982 he participated in the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies.

He says that Shefa's students will be trained to apply their knowledge to actual situations. They will confront such questions as war and peace, the place of morality in politics, how a Jewish state should treat minority groups, and the complex implications of genetic engineering and abortions.

SHEFA has no political orientation, he says, which he sees as a good point. One of the students in the yeshiva's first class is the son of a Gush Emunim leader, while another is the son of a leader of Oz v'Shalom, the movement of Orthodox doves. (The father of a third student is a Libyan-born workman and the father of a fourth a Weizmann Institute professor.)

Between semesters, Shefa students will be required to volunteer for work on some social project, to strengthen their involvement with Israel society.

The classes in the college will meet for 10 to 12 hours a week, and while its students will not require much Jewish learning, they must be prepared to do some real studying.

Each college student will be tutored by a student in the yeshiva's *kolel*. This interaction, says Steinsaltz, will compel the latter to confront questions and perspectives he might not otherwise be exposed to.

And this encounter, he hopes, "will produce, in microcosm, the dialogue we envision for the entire Jewish people."

Second thoughts

By YOSEF GOELL

LET ME BEGIN by admitting that I was wrong and then examine where I went wrong.

In trying to figure out how the Israeli electorate would vote on July 23, I came to believe that of the three major issues in the election campaign — the botched war in Lebanon, the Chaim Weizmann mismanagement of the economy by the Likud and the more amorphous issue of Israel's hopes and fears regarding the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict — the economic issue would loom the largest in voters' minds.

My reasoning was that for the first time since the 1966 recession — 18 years ago — the economic crisis had hit the realm of economic theory and had penetrated deep into every Israeli home and heart.

A crisis in which hundreds of thousands had lost up to one-third of their savings — as Israelis did last October — and in which a million wage earners had their salaries eroded by close to 20 per cent in real terms as inflation continued to climb beyond the reach of remedial indexation formulas, was a crisis, I believed, that should have overshadowed all else.

But, as I said, I was wrong. Not that the Israeli electorate was not agitated at the price paid for the Lebanese adventure, with its close to 600 dead and 3,000 wounded and

with the end nowhere in sight; nor is it that the average Israeli wage-earner and housewife are not panicked at the sight of their government leaders driving the economy deeper and deeper into the quagmire.

IF THESE TWO issues were not sufficient to drive hundreds of thousands of voters to vote against the Likud, then something even stronger must have been at work.

There are those who would suggest that something must be the ethnic division of Israel. The argument is that Israel is divided into two ethnic camps, Sephardim and Ashkenazim, and that they have been dividing politically along Likud-Labour lines respectively for

the past five elections.

Moreover, this argument goes, this trend has become more pronounced since the Likud victory in the 1977 elections. And since the proportion of first- and second-generation Sephardi voters in the electorate is growing, the Alignment will never win an election, at least for the next generation or more.

There is some evidence to support the first part of this contention, but quite a bit of evidence to contradict it, too.

The raw figures produced by the Smith Poll in last Friday's *Jerusalem Post* found that of the identifiable Sephardi vote, 51 per cent had voted for the Likud in 1977; close to 53 per cent had voted for the Likud-Teliya bloc in 1981, and 55 per cent had

voted for that bloc in these elections, with a further 2.5 per cent of the Sephardim voting for Kahane's Kach.

ON THE OTHER side of the fence, only 25 per cent of the Sephardi vote had gone to Labour and its allies in 1977; 22.5 per cent in 1981 and 23 per cent in 1984, if one counted Weizmann's Yabadi in this camp.

The inverse ethnic voting figure is equally interesting: the Ashkenazi vote hovered around the mid-to-high-50 per centage points for Labour and its allies during these three elections. While it went down from the high to the mid-20 per cents during the same period for the Likud-Teliya Kahane bloc.

The Smith analysis goes on to add that "70 to 75 per cent of Likud supporters are Oriental (Sephardi) and 70 to 75 per cent of Alignment supporters are of European origin" (Ashkenazi). So much for the raw figures, which would seem to indicate a sharp ethnic division in voting habits.

Does that mean that the Israeli electorate will remain irrevocably divided down the middle along ethnic lines until the slow growth in the number of Sephardi voters eventually brings about a permanent right-wing majority?

Not necessarily, as one can learn

from the following contradictory evidence.

FIRSTLY, the categories "Sephardi" and "Ashkenazi" are a misleading oversimplification of Israel's complex ethnic mosaic. It is simply not true that we are divided into two types of Jews; we are divided into scores of ethnic groups.

I have not yet seen the detailed results of the most recent elections, but in 1981, when it was claimed that "the majority of the Sephardim" had voted Likud, the true picture was that more than 50 per cent of the voters of Iraqi and Kurdish origin had cast their ballots for Labour, and more than one-third of those of Yemenite origin had voted Labour.

It was the large North African Mughabi community that had gone heavily for Begin's Likud.

STATISTICS ALSO SHOW that more important than a voter's original ethnic identity in determining his voting behaviour is his educational and economic status; the higher both are, the likelier he is to vote for the Alignment; the lower they are, the more likely he is to vote for the Likud or another party to the right in the political spectrum.

Which gives us contradictory trends: the number of Israelis of Sephardi origin is growing constantly, but the number of people of

Sephardi extraction who are raising their economic and educational status, and possibly changing their political views accordingly, is also growing.

ALL OF THE above is pretty much in the realm of an intellectual exercise. But there is a major item of recent political evidence that flies in the face of the ethnic doomsayers:

In 1981, when 53 per cent of the Sephardi voters voted for the Likud in the Knesset elections, the Alignment won a 63 per cent majority in the Histadrut elections. Now, the Histadrut membership is much more heavily Sephardi than is the general electorate. A majority of Sephardi Histadrut members must have voted for the Alignment to bring about such a result.

This last piece of evidence would seem to indicate that Sephardi voters, like the rest of the Israeli electorate, don't so much vote according to their ethnicity as according to issues and personalities.

To be sure, all of us are deeply influenced by our different backgrounds and life experiences. But these are translated into votes by non-ethnic circumstances.

WHICH BRINGS me back to my mistake. I knew that the vast majority of voters were significantly more hawkish on the Arab question than the declared position of the Labour mainstream.

I did not correctly assess the profundity of the last-minute fears in this regard which were to prove powerful enough to overcome consternation about Lebanon and the economy among many voters.

IS THERE a lesson in all of this for the Alignment? If there is, it is certainly not to pack their list of candidates with even more Iraqis and Moroccans.

Kahane is the epitome of a certain type of Ashkenazi; Teliya is heavily Ashkenazi, as is Morasha; and the Likud is much more East European in regard to the origins of its top people than the Alignment is or was. And this never seemed to bother Sephardi voters.

The decisive factor that denied the Alignment victory in these elections — despite Lebanon, the economy and the political demise of Begin — was the issue of "being soft on the Arabs."

A significant majority of Israel's Jewish population and an overwhelming majority of its Sephardim are deeply persuaded by the fact of continued Arab enmity to the very existence of Israel.

It may be that Hussein is ready to bite at a Jordanian option, à la Shimon Peres, although I doubt it. The time to test that hypothesis is when one has attained power. It is certainly no way to win an election.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

Certified sanity

By SHMUEL KATZ

YAACOV HAZAN's radio interview on August 1 has been widely quoted because of his negative attitude to a national unity government. There was however much else that was illuminating in his remarks. He proclaimed that he was a "sane Zionist."

The veteran Hashomer Hatzair leader seems to have fallen into the trap of the unconscious humorists who a few years ago thought up the idea of flourishing personal assurances of their sanity as proof of their wisdom.

The idea caught on: "leftward" from somewhere down the middle of the Labour Party are to be found people who find it easiest to clinch any rational discussion of issues by the simple disclosure: "after all, we are the sane Zionists."

Mr. Hazan stressed that he was not making any value judgements. There were "good guys" and "bad guys" on both sides. The sane Zionists were simply those who knew what was possible and what was not. The others were impractical people who thought they could impose their will upon the world. He called them "messianics."

This is also a recently recoined term to describe those who believe that Palestine belongs to the Jewish people, that it is most dangerous not to take seriously the doctrine of the Arabs (with their 20-odd states) that the Jewish State must be eliminated, that there is hope for peace only if Israel does not weaken herself once more by giving up territory, that indeed giving up territory is a certain prescription for another war.

HAZAN's interviewer did not press him hard for evidence of the sanity he professed. This might have embarrassed him. After all it was Hazan's party which, before 1948, fought against the idea of a Jewish State, and preached a "bi-national" state with the Arabs enjoying a 50 per cent statutory control.

On another plane — it was Hazan who, in the days of Stalinist rule in the U.S.S.R., proclaimed that the Soviet Union was his "second homeland," a fair description then of his

party's world-view. These are only two examples of the credentials available to testify to the Zionist sanity of Mr. Hazan and his party.

In the interview Mr. Hazan stressed that the classification of "sane" and "messianic" Zionists had historic roots. He named several historic "sane" leaders: Chaim Weizmann, David Ben-Gurion, Yitzhak Gruenbaum (Israel's first interior minister). It is relevant to look at Gruenbaum's record. The leader of Polish Jewry, he was an authentic representative of the Zionist establishment school of thought.

His sanity in the middle and late 1930's expressed itself in mobilizing opposition to Jabotinsky's desperate efforts to convince the Jews of Eastern Europe that a national catastrophe was imminent. Their economic and social condition in an increasingly anti-Semitic Europe was beyond hope or help.

"The ground," he cried, "is burning beneath your feet," and he pleaded with them to flee their countries and try to make their way to Eretz Yisrael. (Chaim Weizmann in those very days described the mass of East European Jews as "dust, moral and economic dust in a cruel world" of whom only a remnant was likely to survive — but he offered no plan of action or escape.)

To Gruenbaum's credit, he, unlike the other Zionist leaders, subsequently admitted his grim misdirection of the masses who, a few short years later, became the victims of the Holocaust.

This writer, together with Yosef Nedava, had a long conversation

with Gruenbaum in March 1947, at the height of the underground struggle against British rule in Palestine. Several days earlier the British had proclaimed martial law in the country with the avowed aim of "finally" crushing the Jewish underground.

Gruenbaum agreed that on historical grounds and on grounds of national self-respect, the Irgun's policy was correct. Britain had become our enemy and it was logical to fight her. But the fight was endangering the Yishuv. "What shall we do," he asked, "if the British bomb Tel Aviv; if they destroy the Emeq?"

I pointed to a war-weary Britain's shattered economy, to the daily agonies of everyday life in Britain, multiplied by the conditions of that terrible winter, her pitiful dependence on American aid, the tremendous sympathy in the U.S. and in post-Holocaust Europe for the Jewish struggle in Palestine — and the growing disgust in Britain itself at the shame and expense at her presence, with 80,000 troops in Palestine.

Nedava and I assured him that if only the resistance was maintained Britain would be forced to leave Palestine. We (in Hazan's lexicon) were "messianic."

A week after that conversation martial law, countered by over 60 operations by the Irgun and the Lehi, was shamelessly withdrawn by the British; and Winston Churchill in the House of Commons fiercely — though reluctantly — echoed the demand of the Jewish underground: "get out of Pal-

estine!" Six months later the British government announced their abandonment of Palestine.

THESE EXAMPLES do confirm Hazan's assertion of the historic continuity of the two schools of thought.

Hazan's most "sane" people were distinguished by being wrong in nearly every crucial situation. Let us take Chaim Weizmann. Hazan did not specify which Weizmann was the sane one. Was it the Weizmann who said in 1919 that he expected Palestine to be "as Jewish as England is English," or was it the Weizmann who in 1930 declared that he had no understanding for the demand for a Jewish State?

Was it not the Weizmann who bitterly opposed any resistance to oppressive British rule and who, that same March of 1947, still spoke of Britain as though she were on our side? Was it not the Weizmann who in July 1947 said that he believed that Jewish agreement to the partition of the country (territorial "compromise") would end the dispute with the Arabs?

The spiritual affinity, the historic continuity, claimed by Hazan stands out starkly. The same mindset of Gruenbaum — and the rest of the Zionist establishment — that opposed evacuation in pre-war Eastern Europe; that, in Palestine, for years opposed the revolt against British rule, that misjudged the transparent British aim to destroy Zionism, that failed, unbelievably, to detect the crucial limitations of British post-war power; that willfully shut its eyes to the depth of Arab determination to prevent the birth of Israel and subsequently in trying to bring about its destruction — that same mindset emerges in almost photographic reproduction in the present-day preachers of "sanity."

Nothing in our collective experience has changed them. Yehoshaphat Harkaby, who did more than any other expert, to expose the depth and the inflexibility of the Arabs' non-acceptance of Jewish Statehood (and their anti-Jewish virulence) often complained bitterly that Israel's political leaders

simply refused to listen to him.

They were dominated by wishful thinking, enmeshed in their mystic beliefs; and so they have remained. If they are completely sane according to Hazan's scale, they preach a return to the 1949 Armistice lines.

If they are not entirely "sane," like Peres or Rabin, they merely pretend that the Arabs (first of all Hussein) will accept two-thirds of Judea and Samaria (but excluding Jerusalem) in "settlement" of their claims; and that precisely a weakened and vulnerable Israel will encourage them to give up their dream of her annihilation.

PERHAPS EVEN more striking is the present "sane" attitude to Egypt. Almost every day we are provided with new evidence that, apart from accepting Sinai, the Egyptians never saw in the peace treaty more than a formal piece of paper. A fortnight ago they added new conditions, for fulfilling the first element in the treaty: the maintenance of their ambassador in Israel — who was to be the daily visible symbol of peace.

Propaganda against Israel in the media (patently designed to maintain a high level of hatred and contempt) continues as though there were no treaty with a clause outlawing such propaganda. Tourism — from Egypt — and trade hardly exist. The military establishment goes from strength to strength.

To give added point to the unabated Arab purpose, Abdul Madjid has been appointed foreign minister. Virtually anti-Israel at the U.N., he was the chosen emissary in 1982 to reveal to a Conference of Arab States in Kuwait the details of Egypt's intentions towards Israel. In sum, they are the traditional prescription for the destruction of Israel by stages — including the return of the "refugees" to Haifa and Jaffa et al.

What have the sane Zionists to say to this? Nothing. They "have not heard" of it; and even pretend that they have not been warned. Maybe that is how they "retain their sanity."

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

Figure 1. The effect of the initial concentration of the monomer on the polymerization of α -methylstyrene initiated by BuLi in THF at -78°C . The polymerization was carried out in the presence of 0.01 mole-% of BuLi in THF at -78°C . The polymerization was carried out in the presence of 0.01 mole-% of BuLi in THF at -78°C . The polymerization was carried out in the presence of 0.01 mole-% of BuLi in THF at -78°C .

According to the Midrash, Moses begins his long but fruitless plea by saying, "Lord of the Universe, con-

Eretz Israel. (That he actually harboured such hope is clear from the only authentic letter we have from the Baal-Shem-Tov, the famous

senik

This seemingly minor incident is taken into account when his application to enter the land is considered. One cannot cover up one's national identity at a moment of convenience and at the same time expect to be rewarded a full share in the national celebration after the destination is reached. Even if one is none other than Moses, the redeemer of Israel himself. *Ve-acharai... (Devarim 34:3-7:11)* is the Bible portion read at synagogue on Saturday, August 11. Rabbi Peil is Professor of Jewish Thought and Literature, at Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

'The people are in despair'

By MARK SEGAL/Post Political Correspondent

"A GOVERNMENT of the Alignment and the Likud would be capable only of adopting one unanimous decision - to decide not to decide. If any decision was reached, such a coalition would be unable of implementing it, with one side fighting the other."

The speaker is Victor Shemtov, secretary-general of Mapam, the Labour Party's left-wing partner in the Alignment, and holder of five of the 41 Alignment seats in the 11th Knesset. Shemtov, 68, is equally pessimistic about the prospects of a national unity government for a limited period of a year, which would deal with urgent problems and then go to elections. "Can you imagine," he asks, "how each party would behave with new elections at the back of their minds? It is doubtful if they could get anywhere."

Nor does the Mapam leader accept the oft-advanced thesis that the July 23 elections demonstrated the electorate's desire for a grand coalition of the two major parties. "That's a stupid comment, absolute rubbish," he declares with vigour. The more than 700,000 voters who supported the Likud-Tehiya bloc and a government of continuity, and the slightly larger number who voted for the Alignment and its declared allies clearly did not support the same thing. "How can one put together, in the same government, those seeking continuity and those demanding change. All we'd get would be an awful impasse."

It is clear, Shemtov says, that the electorate did not make a clear choice between the Alignment and the Likud. "Now they're trying to convince me that this result should produce a government containing the two opposites. As I see it, the people are in despair, in the absence of a clear-cut decision. So they grasp at the national unity slogan like a drowning man grasping at a straw. Some people hope that you'll

solve all our problems by putting the two big parties together. But it's not a debate about ideology; it's about mythology," he fumes.

Waxing imaginative, Shemtov asks a rhetorical question. "Can you imagine Victor Shemtov sitting at the same table as Arik Sharon? Will our daily embrace bring together the people who shout 'Arik, King of Israel,' and the members of Mapam?"

But, I point out, the call for a national unity government focuses on the need for a national programme of economic recovery. That is a highly simplistic approach, replies Shemtov, who argues that economic policy cannot be separated from defence and foreign affairs programmes. Major issues divide the two blocs - the ways out of the Lebanese impasse, the need to get the peace process in the cold, the allocations for West Bank settlements, even if Labour were only to agree on the expansion of existing ones.

"I fail to see," he declares, "how the two parties could find a common basis for a working policy. Either the Alignment will have to submit to the Likud, or vice versa."

SO WHAT is about to happen? Shemtov loses his usual affable manner. "Don't pay attention to the politicians' current pronouncements. There has never been a time when so many politicians have lied to each other, and to the public."

"What is certain is that nothing, I repeat nothing, has been set so far. All the options are open. There could be a national unity government, and there could not be one. It could be headed by Shimon Peres, it

could be headed by Yitzhak Shamir. Then again, a narrow coalition could be formed, with either Shamir or Peres at its head. Everything is open."

When Peres informed Labour's Alignment partner that he desired to form a national government on the basis of the Alignment platform, Mapam applauded. But when the Labour leader said he wished to include the Likud, Mapam gave him the green light while preferring to remain on the sidelines during such talks.

"We did not impose a veto, nor did we submit any ultimatum to Peres and his negotiating team," Shemtov declares, for the record.

Shemtov is highly amused at the way Likud spokesmen, like Deputy Premier David Levy and Knesset faction head Ronnie Milo, kept bringing up his name and that of his party in talks with Peres. "I hear that a few minutes after the talks begin they always declare, 'But what about Mapam? Will Shemtov agree?' Now for someone the Likud branded a PLO agent, it's highly flattering to be the constant subject of conversation."

"I personally believe that the Likud is deeply rent by arguments over going into a national unity government led by Shimon Peres. It appears to me that they want Victor Shemtov to extricate them from this dilemma by torpedoing the talks. To borrow the Alignment's election slogan, it might be said that Mapam is the last hope of the Likud. But we'll



Victor Shemtov. (IPPA)

disappoint them: the negotiations will collapse only because of the Likud, and not because of us."

He again expresses strong doubts that anything will come out of the contacts with the Likud. But if Peres comes back with an agreement for a coalition based on the Alignment programme, Mapam will gladly take up the proposal. He takes the opportunity to reiterate Mapam's stand. "Our final decision will hinge on the previous position adopted by our party, to quit the Alignment if Labour joins in a national unity government with the Likud. But that stand is conditioned by the rider that we will consider the situation in keeping with the exigencies at the given time."

VICTOR SHEMTOV was a member of Young Maccabi back in Bulgaria but after coming on aliya in 1939, he joined Hashomer Hatzair and was a delegate to Mapam's 1948 founding convention. He spent two

years in Haifa and worked as a pump boy at the Socony Vacuum (today Sonol) station in downtown Haifa. His workmate was Haim Landau, poised to follow the opposite political path via the IZL and Herut. Landau and Shemtov were to meet again in 1969 as fellow ministers without portfolio in the national unity government of Golda Meir.

In the intervening years Shemtov moved up to Jerusalem, working during World War II as editor, news-writer and announcer of the Allied forces' broadcasting to Bulgaria.

He has a distinguished parliamentary record, having been a member of the sixth through ninth Knessets, and now the 11th. (The idea that he is the second longest serving MK after that Great Survivor Dr. Yosef Burg, causes him some amusement.)

The genial Mapam leader served in three Labour-led governments, from 1969 to 1970 under Golda Meir without portfolio, and after Gahal quit in late 1970 as minister of health. After she resigned in 1974, Shemtov continued in the same job under Yitzhak Rabin.

Shemtov says that, despite fundamental differences in point of view, he thought very highly of Golda. So why, I ask, should the same Mapam which served with Gahal in those years be so wary now?

At this juncture the Mapam leader takes pains to explain: "We joined that government on specific stipulations. We did not sign any coalition agreements. While they had six ministers led by Begin, we had no portfolios."

Looking at that period in its historic perspective, it's apparent today that the pressure to co-opt Moshe Dayan, Rafi and Gahal onto the Eshkol government was artificial. It's apparent today that we could have achieved victory without Dayan and Gahal. I see it as an historic parallel to the current cry for a national government. I've never had anything against them personally; it's a matter of policy and ideology, and I was aware that such a coalition was doomed and that it would break apart as soon as any crucial decision had to be made. I've always claimed it was that government that accorded legitimacy to Menachem Begin and paved the way for his eventual accession to power.

"But Menachem Begin, of 1969

was only a quarter of the 1977 Begin. Then he spoke for a minority party. Today the Likud has a strong electoral position and it is dominated by Arik Sharon and overshadowed by its right by Tehiya."

A partnership of that kind, he says, "will prove to be highly dangerous, much more than in those days. I hear talk of Peres and the Alignment needing to seek legitimacy from Shamir and the Likud, just as Begin and Gahal sought from Golda then. All I can say is, it's an unfounded argument, for we are the largest party in the land, as the elections proved."

Shemtov assumes that the National Religious Party was undergoing a crucial process of soul-searching and pondering what had been its fate in seven years of Likud rule. "What has happened is that the NRP is left with one-third of its strength. I gather that the NRP leaders are fearful of what might happen should the Likud be in the opposition."

The Mapam leader expresses deep worry about the rightward shift in the country. After Amos Oz, Yitzhak Smilansky and other writers issued their appeal for a national unity government, he met them and heard their fears of the impending collapse of parliamentary democracy in Israel. Like many others they found an historic parallel to the Weimar Republic and similar political developments in other European countries in the 1920s. They feared that the parliamentary impasse might lead to a regime of a strong man rule.

To Shemtov's mind "it is understandable and commendable that such apprehension should cause writers to speak out and sound alarm bells. But fear cannot be a suitable counsel for politicians. After all, it is not the soul of democracy a ruling government faced by a critical opposition? Such a broad coalition would mean that there would be no meaningful opposition to the government. I fear that an immobilised national government would only lead to the further discrediting of parliamentary democracy."

THE UPSURGE of right-wing extremism, Shemtov asserts, is a direct result of the climate created by seven years of Likud rule. "Those spokesmen of the right who today seek to put a distance between themselves and Meir Kahane are the legal fathers of this political bastard. Anyone who talks like Rafael (Rafael) Eitan, of Arabs as 'drugged roaches,' or like Menachem Begin

demonized the Palestinians as 'two-legged animals,' or talks of expelling Arabs in order to annex territory, establishes a receptive climate for Kahane's obscurities. When I go to schools and talk of peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs, and am followed by Rafi preaching the pulpit as the solution to the demographic problem, his argument is better received. If I advocate using the army in order to achieve a political compromise, and the Likud talks of using armed might to impose a solution as in Lebanon, that enjoys a greater welcome. No wonder that a generation of that kind will shift to the right, and be a forcing ground for the radical right's wildest notions."

He is also critical of Labour, in the campaign, for "giving up the ghost," setting aside its ideological arrangements in the face of an aggressive Likud onslaught. But he did not put the blame entirely on Yossi Sarid, who only implemented the party's policy line. Indeed, he admired Sarid's courage for standing up for his views.

"Yet the entire campaign was a flop. We were not apparent because we opposed the line from the outset. Looking back, I would say that it was a mistake to have called early elections, and to have agreed to the July venue as sought by the Likud instead of the September deadline advocated by many Alignment people, all topped by the painfully wrong information. Today he speaks of excellent relations with Peres and his Labour comrades, notwithstanding current tensions over the national unity negotiations."

He dwells on Mapam's special place among the Arab community, whom he noted provided the equivalent of three Alignment mandates. The fact that 36 per cent of the Arab voters chose a Zionist party was highly encouraging. However, he feels the vote might have been greater if Labour had kept its promise to have a greater ratio of Arab candidates on its list.

Turning again to the efforts to form a new government, the Mapam leader deplores the Likud's parallel coalition negotiations and their scandalous criticism of the President. "They have unveiled their mask and shown their true face. They are eroding the authority and the constitutional standing of the President. The nasty way Ronnie Milo attacked Herzog after he conferred the mandate of forming a new government on Peres, is absolutely scandalous."

"I'm absolutely convinced that Menachem Begin would never have behaved in such a way of denigrating contempt for the constitutional process. I fear we have been propelled 30 years back in our democratic development."

Taking stock

By ROY ISACOWITZ/Jerusalem Post Reporter

THE ELECTIONS were not kind to the United Kibbutz Movement.

Before the voting even began, the movement's representation on the Alignment Knesset list was cut from the six "realistic" places it held in 1981 to the present four. During the campaign, the kibbutzim were treated like errant children - working hard for the Alignment without any tangible reward in terms of publicity or public recognition. The only time a kibbutz featured in a campaign television ad was when the Likud used a wide shot to take a back-handed slap at the Alignment.

Then there were the results. The Alignment's failure to significantly expand its electorate was a distinct disappointment to all its constituent factions - but perhaps most of all to the kibbutz movement, which regards itself as the Labour movement's ideological vanguard. After all, who else in Israel is living the socialist life?

If the kibbutzim are indeed the ideological vanguard of the Labour movement, the movement fought the elections with its vanguard well and truly hidden. The word socialism was scarcely mentioned during the campaign, that not being the way to woo strayed Likud voters. The benign neglect showed: though some 85 per cent of kibbutznikim voted Alignment, that figure was well down from the mid-nineties of previous elections.

The deserters went mainly to Shulamit Aloni's Citizens Rights Movement and Lova Eliav, parties that were not ashamed to display their left-wing petticoats. Others went to Shinui, representing not so much a rejection of socialism, it is assumed, as respect for the personal integrity of Amnon Rubinstein and Mordechai Viorshubski. Still others went to Tehiya and Kach - which shows either the extent of the rot or the pluralism of kibbutz, depending on which way you look at it.

THE KIBBUTZIM have always been the muscle of the Labour movement. They provide the campaign manpower and the bedrock of support, despite their numerical inferiority. Comprising only 2 per cent of the population, the kibbutzim constitute some 15 per cent of the Alignment's membership. Together, the UKM and Mapam's Kibbutz Artzi will have seven Knesset members in the Eleventh Knesset. They are therefore a power to be reckoned with in the Alignment.

though their past unswerving loyalty has made them easy to ignore.

Now is the time for reflection, recriminations, and - if the actions match up to the words - renewal. The frustration and the inchoate desire for change were palpable at the meeting of the UKM central committee this week.

Though the meeting was ostensibly called to hammer out a united position on the formation and composition of the next government, the debate ranged agonizingly over the entire spectrum of the movement's ills. The net impression was akin to a beaten but uncowed lion, still searching for a way to escape from the cage.

After seven hours of interminable debate and talmudic finickiness over detail (which would have done Menachem Begin proud) the central committee adopted resolutions calling for an Alignment-led government - preferably narrow, but national unity if that is the only option. Other resolutions attacked the Likud's record, stated the principles on which a government must be based and called for a national UKM meeting to discuss the movement's humbling during the elections. The resolutions have a "moral influence" in the corridors of the party, one kibbutz activist said; they are not the first item on Shimon Peres's agenda.

Cynics said after the meeting that the resolutions mirrored all that is wrong with the kibbutz movement: compromise resolutions, fence-sitting (both narrow and national unity governments) and lack of teeth. Others said that the resolutions accurately reflected the difference of opinion in the movement, the party and the nation, and that the throwing of the UKM's full weight behind the efforts of the party were an important contribution to the coalition-making process.

The majority of the 30-odd speakers at the meeting gave qualified support to the national unity option, though most expressed profound dissatisfaction with all the available alternatives. Among those accepting the national unity option were MKs Ya'acov Tzur and Nahman Raz.

Tzur pointed out that the movement had been among those who stood in the way of the Alignment's entering national unity governments between 1981 and 1984. "But now, the democratic nature of the country is at stake," Tzur said. "We cannot renounce our duty to form the government."

AS BEFITS a man of the land, Raz put it in geographical terms. "We have a different map since the elections and we must attempt to understand the topography," he said. "He attacked the Kibbutz Artzi for categorically rejecting a national unity government and the Kibbutz Hadati movement for categorically rejecting a narrow government. "We are in the middle and we have to make a union between both extremes," he said.

The anti-national unity camp was led, perhaps surprisingly, by MK Avraham Katz-Oz, for once in *de facto* alliance with Mapam and the Labour left-wingers. Katz-Oz was scathing in his comments on those who would accept unity with the Likud. "Do you really think that the Likud are complete idiots?" he asked. "Do you really think that the Likud won't break up the government three months before the Histadrut elections next year?"

Katz-Oz was less forceful when it came to offering solutions - a symptom shown by most of those caught between their natural antipathy for the Likud and the cold, incontrovertible arithmetic of the elections. The Alignment must make every effort to establish a government of 61 members, he said.

At the same time, the movement must work for internal unity and rid itself of its current state of depression. Not exactly inspiring advice, but then, for the UKM, the times are not exactly inspiring.

THE QUESTION of internal unity surfaced awkwardly during the course of the meeting, despite the request by co-secretary Eli Zamir (Meuhad) that the question be left for another time and another place. The general sentiment appeared to be that the movement will not attain the desired political clout until its Ihud and Meuhad wings submerge entirely into the UKM hybrid. Those initiated into the lore of kibbutz politics saw a veiled attack on the Ihud Tzur's comment in that the

movement must become more overtly political - Ihud institutions having traditionally been the least political among the kibbutzim.

Yet the debate over the most desirable (or least undesirable) form of government did not break along traditional Ihud-Meuhad or hawk-dove lines. The choice is a genuinely agonizing one, irrespective of ideological affiliation.

Several Ahdut Ha'avoda people came out for a narrowly based government, while Senta Josephthal, the grand old dame of the Ihud, led the national unity fight. This time, at least, the UKM was genuinely united in its disunity.

While government was the matter immediately at hand, ideology and direction were the under-currents of the debate. The kibbutznikim appeared to be well aware of the irony of their situation - former pioneers now viewed by most of the country as landed gentry - and at a loss for ways to change their image and increase their influence.

A recurring theme was the need to reassert ideology: no longer to shy away from the label "socialist."

There are no easy, quick solutions, and none were offered. Speakers called for revamped education and strengthened youth movements. They stressed the need for increased contact between the kibbutz oases and the parched development towns surrounding them, essentially through joint educational and youth movement activities. No one could adequately answer why the non-kibbutz employees of kibbutz factories had voted overwhelmingly for the Likud. Like distraught parents, they asked: "Where did we go wrong?"

No doubt, those and other questions will be thrashed out in the months to come - and no doubt coming to decisions will be almost as difficult as implementing them, given kibbutz democracy.

It's easy to mock: kibbutz has become a favourite whipping boy for disenchanted Labourites.

But there are very few bodies in Israeli politics today that are prepared to subject themselves to as free-wheeling and unashamedly serious a discussion as that held by the United Kibbutz Movement this week.

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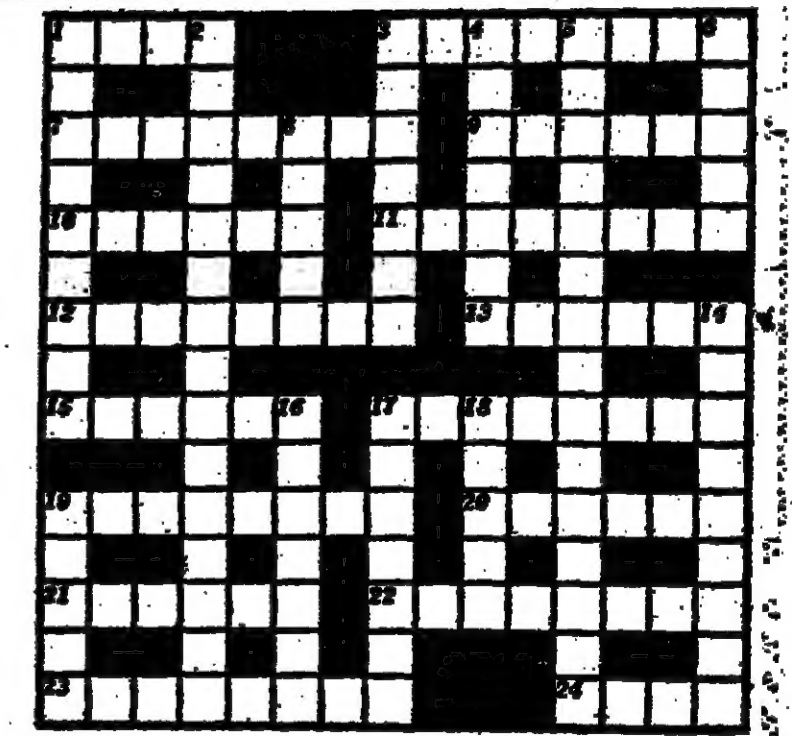
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 - Perhaps makes fearless people guard one who does! (8)
 - Smoking jacket for the cannabis party? (6)
 - Assemble many to hide this badge (6)
 - Programmes on these bodies of water (8)
 - Won't stop living like a god! (8)
 - When this puzzle is sent in, it may receive a prize (6)
 - Ranks and classes in America (6)
 - Rare site rebuilt for blood supplies (8)
 - Runs home to them, providing food (8)
 - A state of medium or partial unconsciousness (6)
 - Ready? Do about being very highly thought of! (6)
 - They don't mind their own business (8)
 - As it were, sizes up old dances (8)
 - Finishes with dead dog, too (4)

- DOWN**
- Initially, have no pig pen - a new occurrence, this! (9)
 - Be late in honouring bills! It's a spiteful thing to do (6, 4, 6)
 - Example of one Oklahoma show (7)
 - Found around many a head wound! (7)
 - Loves three to get people in such an awkward situation (7, 6)
 - Maybe shoots out for a game (5)
 - Look jet-propelled passengers in space (5)
 - Gets the group going, in many different ways (9)
 - Give a quarter to a bank manager, for instance - that's not a gross figure! (7)
 - Takes it for granted it's me in the States, after a ship (7)
 - Big man, an artist I abandoned (5)
 - First file it, then get out the gold, etc.-you hope! (5)



- 'Quickie'**
- ACROSS**
- A condiment (4)
 - Puts something back (8)
 - Ruled (8)
 - Rebounding sounds (6)
 - Evildoer (8)
 - Walked dragging one's feet (8)
 - Used in film crowd-scenes (6)
 - Fashions (8)
 - Corridors (8)
 - Works for a newspaper (8)
 - Gear for angler, etc (6)
 - Silly laugh (6)
 - Spoil someone's concentration (8)
 - Sightseers (8)
 - Came down in a 'plane (4)

- DOWN**
- They show the way (9)
 - Dickens character (3, 6, 6)
 - Made less (7)
 - Exact (7)
 - Famous story (1, 3, 5)
 - Form of grass (5)

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Letting reality wait

THE coalition negotiations drag on. The talks continue on two tiers and in two directions. Both Labour and the Likud are jousting to see if they can inveigle the other to join under, rather than with, them in a unity government. At the same time they are dealing with the small parties to try to line up narrow coalitions.

Thus, while there is much rhetoric about unity, urgency and national interest, the tactical considerations of the parties, which drive the negotiations, are kept out of public view.

But with each passing day, evidence mounts that in the talks for a unity government with Labour, the Likud is merely playing for time. Having forwarded the idea of such a government at the close of the election campaign, they cannot now but play along, even though it is Mr. Peres, and not Mr. Shamir, who has been asked by the President, in the first instance, to try to establish a government.

Their main purpose therefore, is to wait out Labour, and prevent the small parties from seceding into a narrow coalition headed by Mr. Peres.

What the Likud seeks to prevent, Labour seeks to accomplish, namely, to entice the small parties. That, in theory, could then also force Mr. Shamir to join in, creating in the end a very broad coalition.

The only difficulty with that prospect is that the religious parties, and probably Ezer Weizmann's Yahad list as well, show no willingness to jettison the Likud option.

Labour's left wing is pursuing the same tactic as Mr. Shamir. It is enabling Mr. Peres to pursue the unity talks, on the premise that eventually Mr. Peres may entice the small parties. Like the Likud, they do not wish to be accused of having undermined the unity government effort.

The Likud assumes that once Mr. Peres fails to mount a unity government President Herzog will turn to Mr. Shamir, who will then be able to do what Mr. Peres could not do, namely bring the small parties into a narrow coalition. The arithmetic of the Knesset party roster leans in that direction.

If that is the eventual outcome, as the Likud confidently believes, their main concern will be to maneuver in such a way as to pin responsibility for the failure to establish a broad government on Labour.

Three weeks after the elections, this is where matters stand. Meanwhile, there is governmental paralysis. There can be no effort to engage in economic reform, nor is there any fresh look at relieving Israel from the human, political and economic costs, of its occupation of southern Lebanon.

Instead, there is a kind of desperate riding of the logic that is Likud rule. Mr. Cohen-Orad, clutching his hat, wants to present it to the U.S. to fill with aid, and Mr. Ne'eman wants to fill his with more "presences" on the West Bank to foreclose the morrow.

A patient public waits, knowing that what was cannot continue. But in the meantime it acts as if it can, strolling dazedly in an intermission from reality.

Crack in the wall

By DAVID LANDAU

"POKING a scrap of paper into the Western Wall in order to further the prospects of a hocus-pocus, false [national unity] government." This was the caustic way in which Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, grand old man of Labour politics, vilified Shimon Peres's rather corny prayer-cum-photograph session at the ancient national shrine on Sunday after his nomination as premier-designate.

But Ben-Aharon was being a little false himself, or at least disingenuous. For Shimon Peres did not perform this ritual solely to further his prospects of forming a unity government. He did it to further his prospects of forming any government.

A more relevant comment on Peres's performance came from an Orthodox MK who privately desires, like Ben-Aharon, a narrow-based Labour-led government, and whose party is a prospective partner in such a government. "What a pity," the MK said, "that he [Peres] wasn't doing this years ago."

The MK's comment is more relevant because it realistically reflects the underlying political truth of the election results: the religious parties, whichever way you look at it, still hold the balance. And even if there is electoral reform, forcing the little religious parties to amalgamate into bigger blocs, they will still hold the balance.

But the MK's comment, and indeed Ben-Aharon's angry, illogical remarks too, portray a profound truth: Labour has needlessly, heedlessly, irresponsibly alienated — and thereby lost — the hearts and minds of too many people in this country. Archaisms, doctrinaire obtuseness like that of Ben-Aharon is pushing the movement into the status of a permanent — and widely despised — minority in the country it built up and led for decades on a course of sanity and security.

Until this week, there was no point even airing these thoughts. But now, on the sobering, bleak morrow of smashed election illusions, the Labour camp itself is beginning to grope towards the hard realities.

THERE IS a dawning of realization. But is there understanding, political sensitivity, historic responsibility?

Labour and Mapam leaders — and their Shinui and CRM allies — realize this week that, because of the

cruel election arithmetic, "something's got to give." The left-liberal wing of the camp, to its great credit, resolved that it would rather "give" on religion to the religious parties than on peace policy to the Likud.

After all, they rightly realized, better an Israel shut down on Shabbat like pre-war Scotland than an Israel blindly practicing callous apartheid while ominously beleaguered in a sea of hostility. The first situation can be alleviated, the second is doomed to deterioration and ultimate destruction. The first, moreover, can be lived with, even by those who bridled at it; the second presents a searing existential problem for all men of conscience and humanity — especially Jews.

Having come to that realization, and that readiness to compromise, the left-liberals are perplexed by the religious parties' reluctance to respond. They ask themselves: If we offer as much by way of religious concessions as the Likud, why don't the religious parties flock back to us?

They fail to understand when religious MKs speak of the threats and dire warnings they receive from their constituents — simple-minded people for whom consorting with Labour has become, during one brief decade, a sin against religion.

In part this is the legacy of Menachem Begin's deliberate demagoguery. Peres and Rabin and the others are not only traitors in many primitive minds; they are *ochel Yisrael* (anathema) for many other devout, traditional or merely superstitious Jews in this country.

But to be fair, Begin didn't achieve this single-handedly, or even just with the help of Gush Emunim. Labour aided in its own delimitation. Labour stood by while God was hijacked, in his Holy Land, by Rabbi Levinger, the Temple Mount terrorists and now Meir Kahane.

SOME Labour leaders correctly foresaw the fate of the National Religious Party once it broke away in 1974 from the "historic partnership" with Mapai and fell into the Likud's smothering embrace. But they failed to comprehend what the loss of this link to religion and tradition, which Ben-Gurion had so painstakingly nurtured, would do to Labour itself.

Labour's election manifesto, with its ringing affirmation of religious

READERS' LETTERS

STATUS OF WOMEN IN ISRAEL

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, As an American Jewish woman who has come to Israel many times, I have slowly and inevitably come to assimilate the fact that the condition and status of Israeli women, in the realm of work, politics and family life is that of a second-class citizen. Like many other visitors to Israel I had explained this to myself as a not unusual phenomenon in a world still at the beginning of the women's movement for equality, in a world where twentieth century thought had not yet penetrated ancient views and ways of life.

Recent events have made it clear to me, and undoubtedly to many, that, unless there is more free, independent and responsible press, radio and TV in Israel, the second-class status of Israeli women will continue for some time to come.

What shocked and saddened me were events which followed the conclusion of four days of over-flow meetings among prominent Israeli and American women convened at the Van Leer Institute in a dialogue on "Woman as Jew, Jew as Woman." From these meetings, a delegation of women went to the King David Hotel, where Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Shamir were conferring, to present an appeal to the emerging Israeli government, that the concerns of women be considered in their deliberations.

The scene at the hotel was unusual and dramatic. The lobby was filled

with women, some even carrying hastily prepared placards of appeal. Among the crowd were news, radio and TV reporters with microphones and cameras, all there for the Peres-Shamir meeting, and, therefore, on hand for the unexpected presentation to the two leaders of a carefully drawn statement of appeal by these prominent women, most of them Israeli.

From a newsman's point of view anywhere in the western world, this would be regarded as an exciting and dramatic piece of news, and a particularly unusual one in Israel. How is it possible, then, that not one word or picture was broadcast on the 9 o'clock TV news? No newsman worth his salt would fail to recognize, if not the historic importance of this event, at least its dramatic and newsworthy interest for the citizens of Israel.

And yet it was ignored, obliterated, distorted, turned into a non-event. Press coverage was inadequate and incomplete. The seven o'clock radio news described the statement of appeal as an expression by American women, omitting entirely Israeli women as participants.

I return home, invigorated by the energy and intelligence of the remarkable Israeli women whom I met here, and saddened by their legitimate anger and frustration which had found no outlet in the media.

VIRGINIA SNITOW
Tel Aviv (Scarsdale, N.Y.).

KAHANISM

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — We, the undersigned, teachers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, wish to record our feelings of repulsion at the growth of Kahanism — a pernicious mixture of thuggery and racism — in Israel. We regard the racial incitement of Kahane and his followers, in word, deed and policy, as an outrage against humanity, a disgrace to the nation and an insult to the Jewish religion. We demand immediate legislative action in order to combat this insidious evil.

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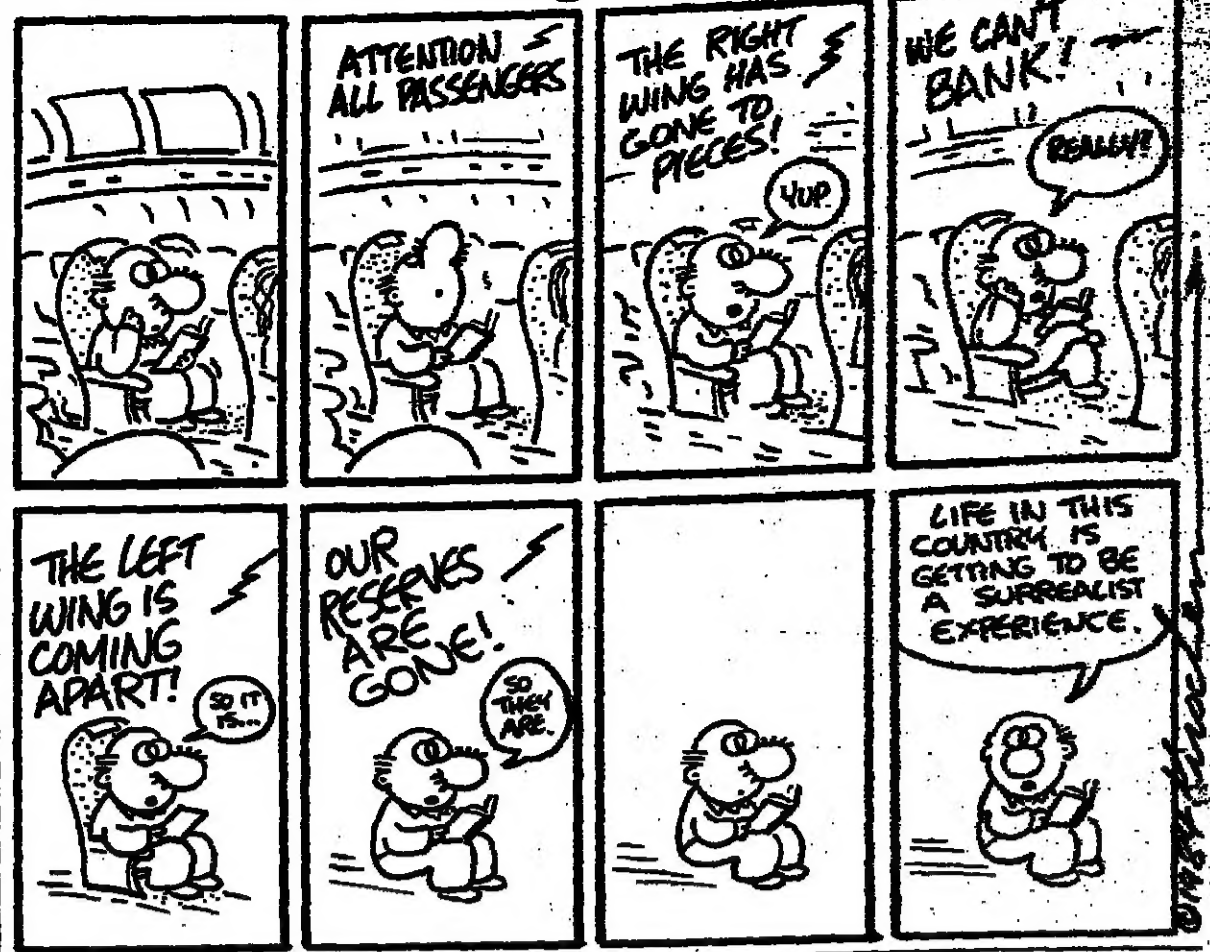
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pluralism and liberalism, would surely have won the election in a Jewish State which truly comprised a cross-section of the Jewish people. But that is not the State of Israel. By historical accident — historical tragedy — the 20-odd per cent of the Jewish people who live in Israel are not a representative cross-section — ethnically, culturally, socio-economically. However, they are the population — the electorate — of the Jewish State. They are the Israeli people.

The Labour Party leadership, to the chagrin of the left-liberal wing, chose to pander to this demographic reality in the election campaign by self-peddling the fundamental issues of political morality — for that ultimately is the significance of the Palestinian problem for the Jewish State. Labour's most sacred — and rightly sacred — principles were at best concealed, at worst compromised.

But on the matters of state-and-religion, so picaresque by comparison, there was no self-doubt, no sensitivity, no self-doubt, no compromise.

Yet it is through these relatively insignificant issues that Labour can still — win back hearts and minds while holding firm and fighting relentlessly on the real matters of principle.

To do so Labour must appreciate that for hundreds of thousands of religious and traditional Israelis what matters is not merely the horse-trading, the "concessions," but rather the attitude, the approach to the values these people consider to be holy and eternal.

For an old-time dialectician and unbeliever like Ben-Aharon, all that is required is a realistic reappraisal of Marx's axiom, which it plainly does not stand up to the test of time. Just as optimism in its various forms continues to be a great favourite among various masses around the world, though they have long ago thrown off their chains, so too religion, in some societies, has proved more enduring than mere socio-economic forces.

FOR MEN like Peres, Rabin and Navon, believers in *tzur Yisrael* (the rock of Israel) and *nezzah Yisrael* (the eternity of Israel), what is needed is a shaking off of prejudices and pre-conditioned reflexes, an acknowledgement of what the spiritual well-springs of Zionism were, and an understanding of their own potentially crucial role in helping to channel the waters of that wellspring to national salvation. For, as we recalled on Tisha B'av, these waters can

easily sweep the nation, if wrongly led, to destruction.

Having cooperated for a decade in the steady decimation of the humane, rational stream in Israeli Orthodoxy, and having suffered the electoral consequences to itself too, Labour now, for its own sake and for the country's sake, must contribute to the revitalization of that stream.

Fortunately, there are some favourable factors in the post-election standoff. The rump parties of NRP and Agudat Yisrael are gazing aghast at what they have lost — and what they have spawned: Druckman and Peretz and Waldman, Jewish ayatollahs, preaching Jewish jihad.

This "agha" description does not, of course, include the ever-unflappable Dr. Burg, court-jester to six prime ministers. But Hammer and Ben-Meir are not so bereft of qualms — over the *golem* of Gush Emunim, which they helped create; over the Lebanon War, in which fine yeshiva scholars died for nothing; over a Torah from which peace and justice are being methodically, brutally excised.

Perhaps, if the wheel can still be turned back, it will prove to be Labour's — and Israel's — good fortune.

ture that the anti-peace camp purported to speak in the name of this perverted Torah. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis, steeped in Torah tradition and clinging to that tradition, can still be brought to see what genuine Jewish values are.

How to achieve it? Labour thus far has demonstrated how not to achieve it — for instance, by putting NRP renegade David Glass ("religion and morality don't mix") on the party's Knesset list (no. 61).

Labour should be searching out those men of spiritual stature who have kept their heads above the swirling stream of fanaticism. Soloveitchik, Auerbach, Leibowitz — not to put them on the ticket, but to project them into the national dialogue so as to give the lie to the crude chauvinism that passes today for religious dogma.

Poking a piece of paper into the Wall is a bit kitschy. But it's harmless. And it demonstrates (belatedly) good intentions and open-mindedness, which is more than can be said for Ben-Aharon's strictures. And, who knows, perhaps it is a prayer that will be answered.

The writer is the diplomatic correspondent of The Jerusalem Post.

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WEEKLY PER DAY PER WEEK EACH DAY PER MONTH
TYPE OF CAR
*O RAY 3D OR SIMILAR 7 0.20 38 203 28 980
*A RAY 5D + R OR SIMILAR 11 0.22 41 238 34 730
*B FIESTA 14 0.24 48 289 37 800
*C SUBARU + R 18 0.28 59 343 48 1000
*D SUBARU + AC + R 18 0.28 59 343 48 1000
*E SUBARU AUT + AC + R 20 0.29 65 369 57 1150
*F SUBARU ET + R 20 0.29 65 369 57 1150
*G CHARMANT, SUBARU AUT + AC + R 22 0.35 68 427 61 1280
*H SIERRA AUT + AC + R 26 0.40 79 490 70 1480
*I SOLARA + R 30 0.45 86 539 77 1550
*J AUT + AC + PS 30 0.45 86 539 77 1550
*K MINI BUS 35 0.48 90 580 80 1800
*L SUBARU PICK UP 35 0.43 90 580 80 1800
AUT — AUTOMATIC, R — RADIO AC — AIRCONDITIONING Prices in U.S. Dollars
PS — POWER STEERING
*Free Israeli weekend from Friday to Sunday 9.00 A.M.
Prices and reduction are effective as long as this offer lasts.
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